



RESEARCH PAPER

Challenges and Impacts of Terrorism in Pakistan: A Post-9/11 Study

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PAPER INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: July 29, 2021 Accepted: September 10, 2021 Online: September 25, 2021	Terrorism emerged as a transnational security threat after 9/11. To make peaceful and free arrangement at the regional and global level became priority of the international world. Afghanistan appeared to be the center stage and Pakistan being adjacent to Afghanistan significantly emerged as a reliable partner. For this reason, it faced multifaceted challenges by joining the U.S. and its allies in fighting the war against terrorism in Afghanistan. This war was fought at Pakistan's borders and its adjoining tribal areas thus, it had to face the socio-political and economic consequences. Furthermore, the sense of deprivation among society led to the policy of revenge which gave impetus to the issues of violence and threat within the country. Pakistan incorporated indigenous blood and conducted military operations in tribal areas, along with the institutional building, and reform packages. This paper presents a critical review of the causes and impact of terrorism from the global, regional and domestic perspective in the post-9/11 scenario.
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Introduction

Pakistan being a developing state with peculiar geographic importance had a fragile economy with untapped resources (Ali & Li, 2016). But even though, Pakistan remained a major partner of the U.S. since its inception to serve the vested interests in the region in particular and the world in general (Abbasi, 2013). This bilateral relationship became extremely entangled in the wake of 9/11 when America received moral and physical assistance from the outer world in which Pakistan was on the top of the list to defend U.S. intervention in Afghanistan as a genuine action (Hilali, 2012). Pakistan became a non-NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) ally and offered cooperation to fight another war in Afghanistan, this time relatively more open than that of proxy war (Islam, 2012). Since 9/11, Pakistan took certain measures to ensure peace at the domestic and regional levels, but this war led the truncated state of Pakistan into a state of turmoil. Pakistan faced traditional and non-traditional security threats; among those terrorisms remained paramount.

Terrorism cannot be explained as a single phenomenon. It carries multifaceted connotations within its preview. Hence, theorists, writers, political scientists, conventions, states, departments, governing agencies, and groups define the concept with variation. Townshend (2002) explained terrorism as a state of mind that is politically, socially, and psychologically motivated. Martin (2011) mentioned terrorism as a concept with political aims and motivations which use an illegitimate force against targeting evidence with a purpose to terrorize. Crenshaw (2000) denoted terrorism as the last choice when other tracts proved to fail, movements, alternate policies, and methods do not work to achieve their demands then they move towards terrorist activities to pressurize governing authorities to pursue their demands.

Causes of Terrorism in Pakistan

The social, political, economic, religious, and external causes remained paramount in nature. In historical context, the Russian invasion of Afghanistan (1979) was a significant event of the 20th century that forced Pakistan to fight a proxy war in South Asia. Taliban were provided with military assistance by the U.S. and the Islamic jihad in Afghanistan initiated the emergence of Al-Qaeda in the region which created a security threat to the U.S. and ultimately ended in the 9/11 attacks (Riedel, 2011). This attack appeared as a catastrophic event of the 21st century and the Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) was launched whereas Pakistan provided its bases to the U.S.-led forces. Access to Dalbadin, Jacobabad, and Shamsi bases was given by Pakistan to launch OEF against the perpetrators of 9/11 (Jones & Fair, 2010). Pakistan's role as the front-line state, military operations and drone strikes developed anti-American sentiments in Pakistan society (Shah, 2018). Though, Pakistan was by and large a disinclined ally (Islam, 2012). For this reason, it is essential to explore the root causes that remained responsible to engender militancy and the atmosphere of terrorism in Pakistan.

Education is the keystone of any nation (Abbasi, 2013) because lack of education and illiteracy incites the behavior of revenge in public. The irrational behavior was incited in Pakistan, because the fewer efforts were taken by past governments to focus on education policy which is unfortunate to its national security (Khan, 2011). Though after 9/11, Musharraf government felt the need to introduce modern education and immense external pressure was put on Pakistan to focus on education policy (Abbasi, 2013).

Pakistan as a poor country with meager resources also had economic compulsions specifically in the tribal areas. Gunaratna and Iqbal (2012) mentioned the poor economic status of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), where industrial development and social infrastructure were at a very low level even before 9/11, but it was further ignored in post 9/11 scenario due to military operations. So, it can be said that the already poor economic status of FATA was further exploited by terrorists to serve their interests to weaken the country (Rabbi, 2012). The eradication of terrorism from the tribal areas needed persistent efforts; Ghauri (2009) explained that how Pakistan along with the assistance of the U.S., and the international community had endeavored to uplift the tribal areas in all the realms because the socio-economic and political uplift could only work wonders in Pakistan's tribal areas than any missile or drone attacks.

Lack of justice gives impetus to deprivation, and resultantly lead to feeling of hatred and policy of revenge (Shah, 2018). In this context, the socio-political cause of terrorism can be seen on a broader canvas. The perpetual polarity among provinces also gave rise to a sense of deprivation in the undeveloped provinces like Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and it was evident that these two were center points to harbor terrorism; the specific programs were also initiated in 2003 to ameliorate the living standard of the underdeveloped areas specifically FATA (Islam, 2012). The persistent grievances were presented through other works as well; Rashid (2012) also observed unequal sharing among three provinces as the main cause of anti-state activities, guerilla insurgency, and terrorist actions in Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the region of FATA.

Corruption also remained a significant cause and ironically this is a common phenomenon in all third-world states because it is believed that terrorism always accompanies socio-economic causes (Newman, 2006; Caruso & Schneider, 2011). The military interventions in Pakistan always justified their action through strategic means and with lofty slogans to remove corruption through the introduction of economic planning, but this intervention always resulted in breakdown of democracy and interruption in tenure policies (Rashid, 2012) and even for several times, the economic programs and assistance plans met failure because of the corruption and security hazards (Islam, 2012). Yaseen & Awan (2017) in their quantitative study mentioned 100 percent of people responded as agreed, considering corruption as a cause of terrorism.

The vacillating leadership in Pakistan appeared to be another major political cause behind the terrorism. Korb, L.J. et.al. (2009) in general blamed the illegitimate government to be responsible for all the root causes, because a lack of a farsighted approach and incompetent leadership with subtracted accountability leads to deficient working of institutions and promote dissatisfaction in society. This idea was also supported by Rashid (2012) who observed the presence of incompetent leadership behind the instability where leadership become incapable to converge the challenges like promotion of unity among ethnic society by introducing equal economic opportunities, and eventually they fail to foster a feeling of nationhood.

For a long period, Pakistan remained under undemocratic governments and military rule. The constant military interventions paved the way to flourish feelings of animosity against civil governments and prevented society to participate actively in the political sphere even in this perspective Washington was considered to be a spoiler (Riedel, 2011). Public participation and inclusion were denied for a distant future and they kept struggling with the demand for their basic social and political rights. To ventilate the public grievances, they rested upon violence and threat strategy.

An unfavorable environment leads to poor law and order situations in any country. The social discrimination, the rehabilitation process, illegitimate leadership, poverty, injustice, and widespread unemployment persisted to be responsible factors for deteriorated law and order specifically in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA). These areas significantly gave impetus to engender militancy in Pakistan and posed vital security apprehensions for the Pakistani government (Ali, 2012). The independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) in its report (2009) revealed a significant

increase in the crime graph. The HRCP reported a rise in the cases of robberies, ethnic upheavals, and honor killings by 21.34 percent in the first half of 2009 than that of the previous year; even the children and women were not exempted, and an increase in crimes was observed with 83 and 162 percent.

The other significant cause was policy of exclusion especially in the context of the young generation and common mass as this led towards extremism and a policy of revenge against the government. Rashid (2012) mentioned the hegemony of Punjab in the economic and political sphere while the maximum number of attacks were observed in the backward provinces and tribal areas (Jones & Fair, 2010). Furthermore, the policy of political discrimination and lack of developmental projects in smaller provinces led to deprivation and poor economic status in those areas.

Korb, L.J et al (2009) claimed weak response of intelligence agencies, federal investigation agencies, and federal bureaus. It was just because of a lack of training and insufficient resources to cope with the situation. The pro-Taliban governments in Pakistan and the feeling of Islamic brotherhood remained the main obstacle to develop the role of agencies on a broader level. Pakistan's involvement in proxy war and then in the war against terrorism brought an influx of refugees in tribal areas of Pakistan which caused the augmentation of mixed Afghani culture (Riedel, 2011). Not only this, but the promotion of Jihadist movements and the emergence of Talibanization in-country ultimately resulted in the emergence of the Pakistani Taliban (Rashid, 2012).

Pakistan being an ethnic-based society largely divided on a religious and linguistic basis. Rashid (2012) claimed that political elites and the military is responsible for this cause as they always remained busy solving their differences and could not develop national unity, which is essential to integrate the society for a common cause. The wide disapproval emanated from the ethnic protest movement and they held the Pakistani military accountable for the violation of human rights against civilians because of their designed operations against the Taliban. These military operations brought major security concerns for Pakistan (Abbasi, 2013).

Pakistan had been the victim of historical experiences of religious intolerance since its inception. The pre-independence slogan to establish a homeland on the principles of Islam gave impetus to the independence movement. In subsequent periods, religious extremism and fragmentation of society became rampant. The dominantly practiced religion Sunni Muslims had superiority over other religions like Shias, Christians, and Ahmadis. The second amendment to the constitution of Pakistan in 1974 is a clear illustration of the fact when Ahmadis were declared as minorities. To defend their respective ideologies, each faction used to confront among themselves and even with the state, to recognize other sect non-Muslim. Sectarian violence was enhanced during Zia's period of Islamization. Pakistan's role as a buffer state emerged in 1979 during the Russian invasion, which further augmented religious proliferation on a broader level. The mushroom growth of madrasas produced unlimited mujahideen and these Jihadists were brought on the soil of Afghanistan to defeat communists (Siddique, 2011). In this perspective, Ahmar (2007) identified the sensitivity of the issue and highlighted the requirement of a planned strategy to sort out sectarian violence because being an Islamic country the promotion of religious education in Pakistan remained a top priority of all governments, as it was the public demand. Hilali (2012) identified American pressure on the Pakistani government to

design its Islamic education on modern lines by excluding material that intensified flames of extremism in society.

Socio-economic cause	Political causes	Religious causes
Lack of social justice	Absence of democracy	Historical experience
Distributive inequality	Inadequate rule of law	Madrassa system
Vulnerable states	The backing of an illegitimate regime	Islamophobia
Failed state	De facto leadership	Support for groups

Global and Regional Causes

Global trends are also involved to flourish terrorism in the country.

- The emergence of the U.S. as the sole superpower after the collapse of the Soviet Union and similarly after 9/11.
- Testing of nuclear weapons by India and Pakistan, a threat to regional security
- The influx of Afghan refugees in Pakistan
- Engagement of American and NATO forces in South Afghanistan in wake of 9/11
- Operation enduring freedom in Afghanistan brought Pakistan on the front line.

Pakistan always had specific geopolitical realities and security imperatives remained integral for its survival. India being the hostile neighbor and Afghanistan as a strategic depth intensified fear of threat in Pakistan. For this very logic, a pro-Taliban policy was in favor of Pakistan, according to the opinion of few political thinkers; even the Pakistan military remained an embodiment of pro-Taliban policy for a long time (Yusuf, 2009). Similarly, Rashid (2012) also observed Pakistani military's unconditional support to the Taliban and Afghanistan to counter India, impeded adopting a rational stance over Afghanistan, but this support strategy increased flames of extremism and pro-Taliban policies in Pakistan. Islam (2012) observed the Afghanistan factor responsible for the existence of the Pakistani Taliban in the region.

Impacts of Terrorism on Pakistan

As the causes of terrorism have been discussed in a multifaceted way, so forth are the impacts. Hence, the impacts of terrorism on Pakistan can be seen as follows:

- Global perspective
- Regional perspective
- Domestic perspective

Global Perspective

Pakistan emerged as a front-line state after 9/11. Though it did a lot, but its efforts were least appreciated. Hashmi (2007) observed a damaged image of Pakistan on the international scene due to terrorist harboring areas whereas, there was continuous pressure from the U.S. to do more (Riedel, 2011). After 9/11 security concerns increased in the U.S. and he introduced domestic laws to decrease security threats. Hilali (2012) pointed out that domestic laws adversely affected the Pakistani community abroad. For an illustration of the fact, the Patriot Act 2001 can be put as a reference, since it was based on inhuman treatment, questioning, and threatening of suspected people. The victim of this law was mostly Muslim Pakistanis. Strict immigration and visa policies for Pakistanis were also introduced which damaged the image of the Muslim community and Pakistan in particular. Furthermore, the drone attacks and the U.S. military operations in Afghanistan via Pakistan territory also deteriorated Pakistan's image (Abbasi, 2013). The anti-American and anti-government sentiments persisted in Pakistan on account of the anti-Islamic policies (Butt & Schofield, 2012). Islamic reaction got severe due to Pakistan's U.S.-oriented policies, and drone attacks and military operations against its own population remained top concerns. The reorientation of Pakistan-U.S. foreign policies and the continuous speculative approach of the U.S against Pakistan raised concerns in Pakistan several times. On the contrary, American speculations against Pakistan on the given aid increased the feeling of mistrust on the grounds that given aid would not be used against India, while Pakistan was equipped with necessary military equipment after a long time of her demands (Khan, 2011).

Tabassum (2012) marked a feeling of mistrust between two states which got momentum when the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal was signed whereas more reservation was put on Pakistan's nuclear program. American reservation was to prevent nuclear arsenals from the range of Taliban and extremists (Hilali, 2012; Riedel, 2011). Pakistan-U.S. relations already had a long history of trust deficits including the 1965 war, 1971 war, imposed sanctions, and delay in F-16 aircraft that was promised and betrayed every time. These were further intensified in post-9/11 scenario. Korb, L.J. et.al. (2009) reported the following events in the past which stretched Pakistan -U.S. relations:

- The trust deficit between two states of government to deal with the issue.
- The incapability of the Government to deal with the issue.
- Limited endeavors of Pakistan to combat terrorism because it focused more to challenge India

This report came up with future policy recommendations with more focus on Pakistan as it remained a key factor in U.S. policy on Afghanistan since 9/11 and it could be only possible by maintaining mutual trust.

Regional Perspective

War on Terror not only revisited Pakistan's position in global context, but also influenced regional actors. In this context, from regional perspective; two actors remained paramount:

- India

- Afghanistan

Since the inception India remained a perpetual threat to Pakistan and therefore, caused serious policy implications in Pakistan including the military interventions. The threat of India to an extent also instigated the causes of insurgency in Pakistan. This troublesome relation has been further tangled due to the Kashmir factor and this was further intensified after 9/11 (Hilali, 2012). The endeavors to support the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination provoked many Islamic militants in Pakistan who desired to join their Kashmiri brothers for Jihadist purposes against India (Riedel, 2011). Indian threat remained paramount in the entire history to push Pakistan to adopt a pro-American foreign policy with the intention to avoid direct conflict with India on Kashmir (Butt & Schofield, 2012). Whereas, U.S. president George W. Bush clarified his stance on the Kashmir issue and declared that it could only be resolved by mutual assistance of both countries. It was always reminded to Pakistan that aid that had been given to Pakistan was to combat terrorism and not for the export of nuclear technology and to threaten India. In this perspective, Musarrat (2007) highlighted Pakistan's interest to secure her economic status and highlighted the Kashmir issue as a reward for her support on the war on terror (WOT) but the U.S. betrayed all its promises. Indo -U.S. nuclear deal fanned the flame of mistrust among Pakistan society. The serious doubts were observed among Pakistan society on Indo-U.S. nuclear deal and considered that such a deal should have been signed with both the countries to maintain a balance of power in the region (Khan, 2011).

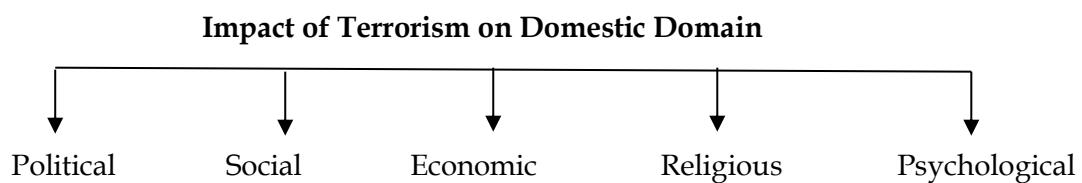
Another source of mistrust and blame game was to be in the form of terrorist incidents in India. The hostile neighbor never took responsibility for its weak security planning and effective strategy to deal with terrorist activities. This personified Pakistan's image as a state-sponsor terrorism. The 2008 Mumbai attacks remained clear illustration in this fact. India cashed the situation and played cards to redefine the Kashmir issue and received global attention, especially of the U.S. thus regional imbalance in South Asia was accelerated after this terrorist activity and cooperation and relation between two states was jeopardized (Korb, L, J. et.al; 2009). Similarly, the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) killed security forces between March and September 2020 while, Pakistan named India behind the revival of TTP. Pakistan was also under clouds, that it took less action against Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and its leader Masood Azhar. JeM considered to be a terrorist group and held responsible for the Pulwama attack of February 2019. This blame game did not stop even after the attack on Karachi Stock Exchange. In June 2020 the Baluch Liberation Army's attack was considered an Indian-sponsored attack. Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Jawed Bajwa addressed this issue in the first-ever Islamabad Security Dialogue, by stating that Pakistan and India must envelop the tragic past to move forward

Pakistan had a cordial relation with Afghanistan in form of a pro-Taliban government and always supported a friendly regime in Afghanistan (Yusuf, 2009), but the scenario changed after U.S. intervention as it caused border infiltration and influx of refugees migrated towards tribal Areas of Pakistan which offered serious security threats to Pakistan (Khalid, 2018). The first impact in this context was a shift in foreign policy from pro-Taliban to anti-Taliban (Khan, 2014). Pakistani support to the U.S. annoyed Afghanistan who invaded their homeland and questioned their sovereign status. Taliban NATO forces, and American presence further aggravated the security situation (Riedel, 2011). The mistrust and blame game remained at its

peak during the Afghan president, Hamid Karzai regime and the border remained the major source of friction (Rashid, 2012). The role of the Army was also highlighted to ensure stability in Afghanistan, which demand continuous efforts to strengthen defense ties. On the contrary Haider (2014) also observed the same aspiration in the Afghanistan government who wanted to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in fields of security and defense by incorporating cooperation in training and border management but the trust deficit and religious militancy could deteriorate the bilateral relations despite the enhanced cooperation and Pakistan's efforts in the peace dialogue process with the Taliban.

Domestic perspective

Domestic perspective can be seen through multifaceted aspects and can be dissected as follows:



9/11 caused the proliferation of terrorism in Pakistan, a country that was hitherto ethnically divided and already had some domestic grounds (Khan, 2011). By joining War on terror (WOT) Pakistan suffered a lot in socio-political and economic realms (Abbasi, 2013). The U.S. pursued its foreign policy objectives by focusing on the domestic issues of Pakistan. Eradication of militancy and prevention of its nuclear arsenals from terrorists was the topmost priority for those billions of aids (Mariam, 2012).

Political Impacts

Terrorism influenced Pakistan in political sphere by posing challenges to its leadership. The U.S. had to seek Pakistan's cooperation, but this cooperation raised concerns in Pakistan's politics. The political impacts of this cooperation on WOT are varied which questioned the legitimacy of government. The sovereign status of Pakistan was also under attack. On dubious accounts, the U.S. brought into question the role of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Tabassum (2012) observed the U.S. speculation about ISI that it developed close contacts with the Taliban and had provided the basic information. This speculation increased the sense of mistrust between the United States and Pakistan. Furthermore, a pro-American foreign policy created resentment among Pakistani society who felt great animosity against the U.S. and took the Pakistani government and U.S. administration with the equal target of wrath.

Social Impacts

In Pakistan terrorism did cast a deep impact on society which gave rise to disintegration and extreme polarization. The human, economic structure, and law and order situation badly affected Pakistan after 9-11 (Ali, 2010). Furthermore, the law-and-order became worst during military operations because in return the policy of revenge was opted by militants to counter these operations. Meanwhile, during these

military operations, evacuation from troubled areas further created critical challenges for the Pakistani government and about 2.3 million Pakistanis had to migrate and leave their houses. An immediate key challenge in front of the Pakistani government was the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) (Abbasi, 2013). The critical impact of terrorism in affected regions could have been seen because augmentation of issues took place in terms of unemployment, poverty, issue of IDPs, shelter, and food, and significant damage to human cost due to the military operation in Waziristan (Ali, 2012). The fatality rate increased between the period 2001-2008 and the number was jumped from hundreds to thousands. The adverse impact on education also took place and schools were attacked by militants in Swat, FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and resultantly most of the schools were closed down in the region due to security measures and military operations (Abbasi, 2013).

Economic Impacts

The vulnerable economy of Pakistan adversely met the economic constraints. In the post-9/11 scenario, America lifted nuclear and democracy sanctions on Pakistan, and thus economy met a booster from \$ 19 billion of Coalition Support Funds (CSF) along with other security-related funds. Furthermore, the eruption of extremism and uncertainty was at its peak in specific regions of Pakistan. The industry of tourism became crippled specifically in the affected regions where military operations were conducted to root out the militants (Abbasi, 2013). The safety is a paramount concern and priority for tourists as they make sure that the destination is secured without any form of terrorist activities and violence (Arana and Leon, 2008).

A further death blow to Pakistan's economy was owing to low foreign investment. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is an important source of economy for developing economies like Pakistan, but insecurity owing to terrorism not only hindered the economic opportunities but also affected the infrastructure of Pakistan. Ali (2010) mentioned the worst impacts of terrorism on the domestic domain like an agricultural loss in Swat, economic deficiency with the increased budget deficit, low investments, military spending, increased loans, and loss of domestic markets with negative exports. Thus, terrorism engulfed all the industries from large scale to lower levels. Economic Survey of Pakistan (2009-2010) showed a continuous fall of agricultural share in GDP after 2001 which shifted from 25.9% to 21.8% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008. The manufacturing sector also suffered the lowest share rates of GDP in the last five years. An increase in inflation from the period of 2001-2006 was witnessed from 4.4% to 7.9% while aid which was given to Pakistan from 2001-2008 was \$5.174 billion (Hashmi, 2007). The serious security threats in the country infected the cost of trade and tax collection. Foreign direct investment (FDI) also suffered and all this economic backwardness affected the men and material sources of the country.

Pakistan's membership in the Commonwealth was resumed in recognition of the democratic steps but the fragile economy of Pakistan remained perpetual because of the multiple economic deficits and uneven economic policies. On account of military operations, Pakistan suffered an approximate loss of \$45 billion from September 2001 to 2009 (Sattar, 2013). From 2001 to March 2017, the direct and indirect cost was experienced by Pakistan owing to episodes of terrorism amounted to US\$ 123.13 billion equivalents to Rs. 10,373.93 billion (Yaseen & Awan, 2017).

Psychological Impacts

The feeling of insecurity and perpetual threat gave birth to psychological trauma whereas, suicide bombings cast a serious impact on social and economic fields (Ali, 2010). Security threats and uncertain activities deteriorated social human life. Furthermore, the military operations disrupted the thinking pattern in sectarian-based society. The inhabitants residing in the conflict areas specifically the tribal areas received the intensity of these terrorist activities more often as they met constant exposure to violence in form of the horrific sounds; because the military operations were launched by the Pakistani army to eradicate the safe havens of militants. Among the most significant symptoms were depression, anxiety, and nightmares. Loss of a home or loved ones pushed the local people into a state of fear, insecurity and stress even the children were not exempted (Abbasi, 2013). According to the mental health program of the Federal Ministry of Health, depression and post-traumatic stress disorders could have been observed in people living in conflict zones.

Religious Impact

Pakistan is a Muslim majority state and religious education has been considered to be a main driving force but after 9/11, the socio-psychological fabric of society met a dimensional transformation (Abbasi, 2013) and Madrassa culture began to be understood as a constant source of extremism, religious orientation and a major source to proliferate ethnic conflicts (Khan, 2011). In this context, the American pressure was also put on Pakistan government to redesign its Islamic education on modern lines by excluding material that caused intensification of ethnic and extremist flames in society.

Security Impact

Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) in its 2017 report highlighted the fact that in the 21st century the terrorist violence in volatile Iraq and Afghanistan had a maximum proportion of terrorism worldwide and owing to terrorist attacks From 2014 to 2016, the total number of deaths in these two countries comprised forty-six (46%) of all fatalities worldwide; the fatalities include 13 percent in Iraq whereas 15 percent of the fatalities from terrorist attacks in Afghanistan which is the adjoined and immediate neighbor of Pakistan. In 2008, an increase in unilateral U.S. missile strikes in Pakistan not only raised anti-U.S. sentiments but these military operations further aggravated the security issues in Pakistan (Siddique, 2011; Shah, 2018). A noticeable increase in suicide attacks was also observed against the military (Nawaz, 2010) and the situation became more precarious after the Lal Masjid operation in 2007 (White, 2010).

Conclusion

Certainly, this viewpoint prevails in the literature; that usually terrorists use illegitimate force to meet their objectives, but that would be unrealistic, because when a particular section of society is being deprived and excluded from the system, how will they receive their legitimate demands. Pakistan being the front-line state in the war on terror had to suffer the impacts of terrorism till the end of the war. It has been observed that in addition to external causes of terrorism, Pakistan also had indigenous causes. Thus, Pakistan has to work on indigenous terrorism that is mainly due to

excluding policies of the governments. South Asia Terrorism Portal has reported a decline in terrorism-related incidents owing to kinetic operations launched by the Pakistani army against the Pakistani Taliban. Though since 9/11, Pakistan has come a long way and incorporated the constant struggle of all the representative governments but still, it has a long way to go. The Successive leaders of TTP have been killed by American drone strikes and the fixation of operational priorities has taken Pakistan a way forward to combat terrorism. The role of the military in this regard cannot be denied, a shift in military doctrine to recognize the non-traditional internal security threats made Pakistan able to counter terrorism. Though the menace of terrorism has not been diminished in Pakistan, the incumbent government has to go a long way to perpetuate the peace process by knuckling down efforts to upgrade the socio-political and economic standards of the country.

Recommendations

- Pakistan has to bolster a good healthy environment at the level of internal politics and must seek the cooperation of all the political parties.
- Regional countries must cooperate to eradicate terrorism by considering it as a joint effort.
- A coherent mechanism should be incorporated to deal with cross-border terrorism.
- The maintenance of peace and security must be taken as a goal from broader to specific. “Peace in the region, Peace at home” and not vice versa.
- Regional integration can be enhanced through the promotion of regional and visa-free tourism.

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