



Afghanistan and Pakistan's Security Paradigm: Assessing Contemporary Risks and Strategic Realities

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Abstract

This research analyzes Pakistan's security calculus, which has evolved under Afghanistan's influence, given the two states' shared history and border. Changes in Afghanistan also affect Pakistan's internal stability and security. The purpose of this study is to understand how Afghanistan's instability shapes Pakistan's security priorities and national interests. The study used a qualitative research method that was based on research articles, official documents, books, and reports. Pakistan's security environment and developments in Afghanistan are examined in an analytical and descriptive study. The theoretical framework of this research focused on the historical causes behind the conflict of Afghanistan and Pakistan, such as military operations, the impact of refugees, and terrorism threats. It focused on the facilitation of cross-border management, long-term planning, and security-oriented factors. It highlighted the major Soviet invasion and its impact on the security of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Findings of the research show that militant groups and terrorism became major threats to Pakistan after 1990. They attacked inside Pakistan and targeted civilians, institutions, and schools. Afghan refugees arrived in Pakistan, increased demand for hospitals, schools, jobs, and housing, and put pressure on the economy of Pakistan. In addition, the research reviews policies of Pakistan towards Afghanistan to control militancy through intelligence coordination, military operations, and border fencing. It helps to reduce terrorist attacks and militancy in areas they attacked, but regional cooperation and peace require long-term policies, political stability, and economic progress. The study concludes that Pakistan's security is strongly influenced by Afghanistan, through border challenges, terrorism, and refugee pressure. Peaceful Afghanistan and Pakistan's balanced strategic policies can create regional and trade opportunities for both states.

Keywords: Militancy, Security, Terrorism, Borders, Stability, Protection, Insurgency.



Introduction

Afghanistan and Pakistan are considered major areas of South Asia because they share the same borders, which were established in 1893 called Durand Line (Siddique, 2014). The country faced challenges regarding security protection, good geographical location, and most importantly, the invasion of powerful states. Internally and externally, Pakistan, on a national level, faced security problems because of Afghanistan and Pakistan's unresolved border issues between tribal and ethnic groups. Instability in Afghanistan creates the illusion of security calculus in Pakistan to consider strategies for peril, endangerment, and terrorism. Pakistan stood with Afghan groups with the help of Saudi and the USA, against the Soviet Union (USSR) intervention in 1979, which created an environment of security issues (Gates,2009). At that time of mistrust, to counter the threats and moving army on borders for protection, Pakistan had started the policy of Anti-Soviet Jihad. After the 9/11 incident, the United States of America led in Afghanistan, which created problems of refugees in Pakistan, terrorist attacks, and border issues, which affected Pakistan's security deeply internally (Fair,2014). After the Tehrik-e-Taliban came into power again in 2021, Pakistan started to manage and reshape border concerns and consider that Afghanistan should be stable for a relationship with countries through good trade agreements, connectivity of regional groups, and a better economy. To solve the problems, there is a need of corporation, peaceful patterns, and planning of security borders (International Crisis Group,2022).

Pakistan plans strategies and decisions for stability, defense, security or affairs of foreign and to the protection of the public and the interests of the nation. The security calculus of Pakistan is shaped by any instability or war in Afghanistan, which deeply affects Pakistan. Historically, intervention of foreign powers in Afghanistan put pressure on Pakistan to form policies for security, terrorism, power competition, and potential. In 2022 to 2023, management of issues is the main problem between both countries. Pakistan also warned the Afghan administration to stay away from using its territory against Pakistan. It was considered that the situation might be better in Kabul again when the Taliban came into power, but the situation became worse and created a bad regional environment. This shows that Pakistan must adapt security policies against mistrust in Kabul, border disputes, or ethnic issues. Foreign policy, security perceptions, and planning for the defense of Pakistan and Afghanistan remain a factor in the problem (Fair,2014).

From 2021 onward, Pakistan has faced severe terrorist attacks and security challenges from cross-border militancy. They took refugees in Pakistan through illegal way and caused major civilian deaths at different places specially in mosques through attacks. Pakistan army played its essential role to counter the attacks of militants especially in Baluchistan and KP and these attacks created the tense situation. For Pakistan it makes impossible to military functioning and bar on border against cross border movement (Rana,2023). In recent years of 2021 to onward Pakistan Institute for Peace Security shows that the militant groups targeted military posts though the use of suicide bombings and weapons. Terrorism relates to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan [TTP], who became even stronger after taking over Afghanistan in 2021, and the United Nations report presents that they prepare groups with fighters and strength in the region. Pakistan and Afghanistan have diplomatic issues and limited relations because Pakistan has asked Afghanistan many times to solve TTP illegal operations from the soil of Afghanistan. After the taking over of Taliban, Afghan refugees migrated to Pakistan, but later, in 2023 and 2024, undocumented



Afghan deported by the Pakistani government because they put pressure on the economy of Pakistan (World Bank, 2023). Overall, those poor migrants have not been linked to terrorism. The consequences of the Taliban's return are complicated by historical, ethnic, and geopolitical ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan (Muzaffar, Yaseen & Afzal, 2021).

Literature Review

Afghanistan's relationship with Pakistan throughout history has not been good. In 1893, Sir Mortimer Durand drew a Line between Pakistan and Afghanistan's border to separate both from each other. The border is called the Durand Line. Both Countries share Common geography in the same region. Durand Line caused big problems, and the boundary between Pakistan and Afghanistan is called the line of mistrust at the time of independence in 1947. In a bilateral sense, the Durand Line is an issue, and external factors have influenced the relationship. In the 1980s onward, Pakistan-Afghanistan relations underwent a significant transformation and hostility, the expand based on the government in power in Afghanistan. When Russia invaded in 1980s in Afghanistan then United States of America let allies including Europeans or Asian and other political groups including Hazb-e-Islami, (1976) and political groups (1972) launch a movement called Afghan Movement (1970s-1980s) in Afghanistan against secularism government in Afghanistan and used Mujaheddin to withdraw Russians from Afghanistan. United States used Strategies of the Cold War in that case. While the Russian invasion in Afghanistan posed a threat to the United States' agenda of Restraint, however, It is also a threat to Pakistan's geography.

In 1990s new force or power raised in Afghanistan, that was Afghan Taliban. They came to power in 1996. Taliban instability arose in Afghanistan because it was involved in many international controversies, ultimately after the 9/11 incident in America in 2001. When the United States invaded in Afghanistan and, Pakistan had no choice but to join the international community in this war against terrorism. At the time of nine eleven incident, the relations with Afghanistan government effected, but not state interests. The government of Afghanistan was overthrown in 2001 by the Taliban, and Hamid Karzai came to power. In this period, there was not a big change in the relationship of Pak-Afghan but deterioration.

Pakistan Cross Border Terrorism in Post 9/11

In recent history always supported Afghan groups that relate to politics. In the past, either Islamists, nationalists, or communists have ruled over Afghanistan. Due to their more lenient stance on the issues of Pashtunistan, the Durand Line, and their chilly relations with India, Pakistan has consistently supported and sided with Islamist. Pakistan's good government with Afghanistan was destroyed by the events of 9/11, and Pakistan had to combat all Islamist Organizations that were against Pakistan's interests in Afghanistan, which suffered two significant setbacks as a result of 9/11: first, a more pro Indian nationalist administration was installed in Afghanistan. Second, terrorist attacks within Pakistan became the new normal as a result of Pakistan taking the lead in the fight against terrorist organizations that were Pakistan's port of entry.

A militant group known as Tehrik-e- Taliban Pakistan emerged in Afghanistan. To this response, Pakistan played a role as a frontline state in the fight against terrorism, an ally of the United States, and in its military operations in the tribal areas. Economic losses, political unrest, a domestic insurgency, backlash, and a high rate of religious extremism and militancy that killed thousands of people were all experienced by Pakistan. This turned into a field of battle on the side of civilians and the military. Moulana Faz-ul-ullah



and Sufi Muhammad established some controlled policies in Swat and Malakand. To eradicate the groups of extremists, military operations, including Operation Zalzal (2008), Operation Rah e Rast (2007-2009), and Operation Mizan (2002-2006) were launched in North Waziristan. In the result cross border terrorism was not stopped because they took refuge in Afghanistan. Pakistan faced severe border terrorism. (Marwat, Rehman, & Akhtar, 2023).

Strategic Interests of Pakistan and Afghanistan

In order to advance the objectives of economic and social prosperity in the area, Pakistan seeks a safe and tranquil neighborhood. The security of regions and stability have been significantly impacted by the chaotic situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan has expressed a genuine interest in fostering peace in Afghanistan. Pakistan and Afghanistan share historical, cultural, and ethnic ties. The US Director of National Intelligence confirmed in February 2010 that Pakistan had seen as counter against the Indian different activities in Afghanistan, including military and economic. (Blair,2010). Pakistan considers that the Indian presence is not just about reconstruction or development its about to keep an eye on activities of Pakistan and creating instability within Pakistan (Sial,2013).

India's significant speculation in Afghanistan remodeling enhances its low contrast and influence among populace of Afghan. Pakistan's interest is also impacted by its proximity to Pakistan's western border, its role in Baluchistan disturbances expanding the strategic area in Afghanistan. Pakistan considers that the Islamic Militants will be helpful in relation to regional issues against India.

As a result, Pakistan is struggling to minimize India's influence. Pakistan's greatest wish has always been to have a friendly and safe western border. To protect its western border, Pakistan seeks a friendly government in Afghanistan. Establishing cordial ties with Afghanistan and preventing any potential rapprochement between Afghanistan and India have been the main goals of Pakistan's foreign policy since independence (Budihis, 2011). However, the Soviet Union withdrew its forces from Afghanistan after Pakistan, with US assistance, backed the Afghan Mujaheddin (Taliban) in their fight against the Soviet forces. Pakistan was one of the countries that recognized the Taliban government in Afghanistan as soon as the Afghan Mujaheddin established a strictly Islamic government in Kabul in 1996.

Due to its landlocked status and reliance on Pakistan for access to global markets, Afghanistan utilizes Pakistan's overland routes. To conduct trade with India and other nations, it requires an overland route from Pakistan to the Arabian Sea and the Karachi seaport. It is also necessary for Pakistan to increase trade with Central Asian nations. Both nations must take advantage of economic opportunities and work closely together on trade and economic matters in order to ensure economic development and stability. In addition to serving as an energy corridor, Pakistan's positive economic role can guarantee long-lasting peace in the region. By fostering interdependence, peace, and stability among its neighbors, Pakistan will also be able to take advantage of its industrial power (Durani & Khan, 2009).

Peace in Afghanistan will also bring peace within Pakistan. It also gives Pakistan a chance to effectively address the domestic insurgency endangering Pakistan's security. Pakistan has always been impacted by the Afghan situation, and regional peace depends on both nations' peace, stability, and security. The developments in Afghanistan indicate that it directly harms Pakistan's security and has increased militant attacks throughout the



country. To understand the policy challenges and risks that face Pakistan, it's important to examine the influence of Afghanistan on Pakistan (Abbas,2022, & International Crisis Group,2023).

This research shows how deeply Afghanistan affects Pakistan's internal security and policies. Pakistan after withdrawal of USA expected that security threats might be reduced when Taliban union take place from Afghanistan, but it became more complicated. Security risks, cross-border militancy or Afghan refugees are the challenges that Pakistan faces, and these reasons are not bearable for Pakistan, especially security problems. The Reason behind this study is to examine how security policies and the political situation of Afghanistan affect Pakistan's internal security, argumentation, and boundary issues. It considers that for the regional stability of Pakistan, there should be a need to manage the challenges.

Research Objectives

- I. To determine how political instability in Afghanistan affects Pakistan's internal security.
- II. To understand how Afghan refugees affect economic activities and local business in Pakistan.
- III. To evaluate how the military and administration respond to security threats from Pakistan.

Research Questions

1. How has Afghanistan, through terrorism, affected Pakistan's security from the 1990s onward?
2. How have Afghan refugees impacted on economy and what policy decisions of Pakistan?
3. What military strategies and policies adopt by Pakistan to manage operations of militant group?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research method is the main research method that is used in this study to explore how Afghanistan influenced Pakistan's external security. Qualitative method provide the researcher different viewpoints to understand the Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. In this research, secondary source data used to collect data such as journals, books, articles, reports of international organizations like international crisis group or united nations. Also, to interpret and examine the data analytical approach is used which allowing the readers or researchers to analyze it that is related to Pakistan's security environment regarding Afghanistan. To better understanding of risks that faced Pakistan critically evaluates this study including cross border militancy, afghan refuges and regional geopolitics.

Terrorism and Impacts on National Security of Pakistan

Terrorist attacks since September 11, 2001 and the US intervention that followed Pakistan has suffered greatly in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. Pakistan has lost up to 75,000 in the last 20 years and suffered \$126.79 billion in economic damages (Mustafa,2018). The relocation of remains of Al-Qaeda and Taliban in the former KP province now includes the Tribal Areas region formerly FATA. The Talibanization of Pakistan's periphery followed regions made it easier for various terrorist organizations to form, which was detrimental to the domestic security of the nation, which has major change for regional peace and South Asia's stability (Wang,2018). The development and application of the 20 point counter-terrorism road map known as National Action Plan played a important role in reducing



terrorist attacks and deaths as well as in the normalization of the nation. Pakistan's battle ahead of the anticipated US withdrawal from Afghanistan the fight against terrorism is at a turning point. Any possible result of the peace in Afghanistan procedure will have direct effect on the terrorist environment in Pakistan.

A triumphal situation is being created by the reduction of the US forces in Afghanistan and discussions about their eventual withdrawal build Jihadist narrative that, the following Soviet Union another superpower was vanquished in Afghanistan (Mashal,2020). Several Jihadist organizations in Pakistan that had previously changed their militant activities are feeling more confident as a result of this narrative from Pakistan to support the Tehrik-e-Taliban Afghanistan in their conflict with the United States in Afghanistan. After achieving their goal in Afghanistan, these terrorist organizations might target Pakistan with their weapons (Zahid,2020). Pakistan will continue to pose a debased intensity long term threat despite destruction of infrastructure terrorist asylum, and significant terrorist networks. Eliminating terrorism and terrorist organizations are arguably two different items. Moreover, a weak indicator is the low frequency of terrorist incidents. Pakistan was experiencing a state of arm and terrorism was the public's nightmare and the biggest problem facing the government.

Pakistan has seen a decrease in terrorism but by no way out. The quantity of fear attacks and the quantity of subsequent death toll have begun to rise once more, sectarianism is increasing and the causes that contribute to the radicalization of the populace not only keeps exist, but in certain cases are making the issue worse. The resurgence of the Afghan Taliban since its lowest point in 2002 in conjunction with the remarkable emergence and robustness of Islamic State of Khorasan's province in nearby Afghanistan concurrently with the rise of Hindu nationalism in nearby India, a sign of growing extremism general trends in South Asia. The fact that different groups take still pleasure in protection from state crackdowns adds additional level complexity to the difficulty. South Asia has documented more terrorist related deaths than any other part of the globe for two decades in a row including 2018 and 201 (Institute for Economics and Peace,2020). Comparatively speaking the number of terrorist attacks has decreased since 2018, according to data from Global Terrorism Index. The number of total incidents of terrorism incidents decreased from 369 to 279 in 2018 and 2019, resulting lowest annual number of terrorism related deaths in Pakistan since 2006 (Dawar,2020). The South Asia Terrorism Portal reports that 319 terrorism related incidents occurred in Pakistan 2020 (South Asia Terrorism Portal, 2021).

Terrorist attacks increased in 2022, Pakistan is still one of the top ten nations most impacted by terrorism in 2022, according to Global Terrorism Index 2023. The number deaths in Pakistan increased dramatically to 120% more than in 2021. The threat of terrorism has returned to Pakistan after a brief hiatus. Beginning in January 2023 a number of extremist incidents took place across the nation, including bombings at public events and political processions, attacks on institutions, targeted killings of security personnel. Since its founding, Pakistan has been a security- conscious nation. This is evident not only in relation to external terror and procurator conflicts but also in the presence of various groups including Haqqani Network, TTP, ISIS and Lashkar-e-Taliban, all of which are unquestionably involved in Pakistan. In addition, separatist organizations like the Baluchistan Liberation Army and other radical groups disrupt the peace in the nation. Pakistan is ranked sixth on the list of nations most impacted terrorism in 2022 with one of



the most highest rates of incidents, hostility, hostages and deaths (Global Terrorism Index,2022).

The root causes of extremism in Pakistan are linked to a number of systemic shortcomings such as the states mistaken policies or hard core Islamized policies during Zia's rule and its support of to Afghan Taliban against the soviet union in the 1990s. Pakistan has experienced political unpredictability, quick policy changes ,and periodic power shifts, all have made the country terrorism related problems worse. Asia from that, the states has experienced sectarian violence ,a lack of education, a wealth disparity , a frayed social fabric , and polarization in society ,all of which have only made matters worse according to (Bashir,2023).

There is a connection between all of these segments and extremism which the root cause of Pakistan's constantly emerging terrorist waves. The fact that Pakistan is frequently referred to as one of the world's most dangerous states demonstrates a clear denial and failure to acknowledge the costs this nation has incurred in the form of human suffering, disorderly state affairs and socioeconomic destruction, specifically for the insisting of restoring peace both within and between states. As a result of international stakeholders refusing to acknowledge their wrongdoings, the issue continues to goes undressed.

There was a fresh wave of terrorism throughout Pakistan in 2023. The nation was already dealing with economic uncertainly and political polarization at the time of the rise in these incidents. Above all, 2023 was Pakistan's election year of Pakistan . Later that year, government dissolved, and the caretaker governments in Islamabad and every province took control of Pakistani affairs. Radical activity increased during the most difficult and crucial period of the political power shift.

Terrorism trend Analysis

For 2023-2024 in Pakistan, the number of incidents connected to terrorism reached a record high in 2023. It also emphasized that 1,463 serious injuries and 1,524 violence-related deaths were repeated nationwide (Shahid,2023). It is noteworthy that the new wave of terrorism targeted specific groups, particularly government employs like police officers and army officials. At a different level, extremism targeted political leaders and gatherings. Additionally, there were a few significant attacks on mosques and other religious procession.

Challenges Of Terrorism

Challenges of terrorism are given below this:

Emergence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan since 1990s

With the secret support of the U.S Central Intelligence Agency and its Pakistani counterpart, the Inter Services Intelligence Directorate (ISI), an Afghan faction of mujahiddeen, Islamic fighters who had opposed the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan (1979-1989), formed the Taliban in early 1990s. Younger Pashtun tribesmen who attended Pakistani madrassas or seminaries joined them, the word "Taliban" in Pashto means students. In Afghanistan Pashtuns make up a plurality and are the most common ethnic group in the east and south of the country. Following four years of fighting between rival mujahideen groups (1992-1996), the movement gained support in early post-Soviet era by promising to impose stability and the rule of law. In an effort to calm the violent southern city of Kandahar, Taliban invaded it in November 1994. They took control of Kabul from President Burhanuddin Rabbani, and they rucked over 90% of the nation. Also, Taliban enforced its own brand of justice. At first, Islamabad welcomed the Taliban takeover,



believing that a friendly government in Kabul would protect the border and curb the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan's activities (International Crisis Group,2024). These hopes were quickly dashed when Pakistan accused the Taliban of harboring TTP fighters who used Afghan territory as a haven to carry out cross-border attacks.

The Function of Non-State Actors in Border Security

The instability with border between both countries is largely caused by non-state actors. The TTP, a terrorist group that was founded in 2007 has resurfaced as a powerful force. It uses uncontrolled border regions to avoid security operations and conducts deadly attacks inside Pakistan (United States Institute of Peace,2024). Tensions have escalated as a result of the Taliban's unwillingness or incapacity to take decisive action against the TTP because Islamabad interprets Kabul's activeness as tacit assistance (Ali.,&Yawar,2025). In addition, the Islamic State Khorasan Province has introduced a competing radical menace that challenges both regional stability and Taliban authority. Cooperation in border security has been made more difficult by ISKP's multinational accomplishment networks and ability to launch high profile attacks (International Crisis Group,2024). Political mistrust has been both a cause an effect for border securitization.

Afghanistan is haven for Militants and Targets Pakistan in 2025

The border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is unstable, untrustworthy, and vulnerable area of South Asia, as the recent conflict between the two nations has once again shown. The bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan are in crisis, despite this year's trilateral talks between China, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the most recent which took place at the end of August . The region is trapped in a brutal rhythm of militarization and diplomatic impasse, as evidenced by Pakistan' airstrikes in response to Tehreek-e-Taliban attackers near Kabul and the ensuing verbal sparring. The main causes of the military conflict are the current diplomatic rift and terrorist attacks by the TTP and their save havens in Afghanistan. Pakistan has maintained that TTP fighters are utilizing Afghan territory to conduct terrorist activities, Taliban government refutes these allegations and Islamabad government is advised to refrain from making provocative statements.

The State of Regional Security

The security landscape in south Asia has undergone substantial changes as a result of the Taliban's comeback to power. In addition to making Pakistan's security more difficult, the Taliban's hold on Afghanistan has affected the interests of regional and international powers, all which have a stake in the country's stability and governance. External nations like CHINA, Russia and India have played a part in escalating and occasionally stabilizing regional tensions. For example, China's involvement in the Taliban, especially under the BRI, has strengthened the economic ties between the two countries but it has also increased Pakistan's concerns about China's growing geopolitical influence on Afghanistan (Allison,2022). Pakistan views this as a strategic challenges because it might undermine its position on China's main regional partner, particularity in relation to infrastructure projects like the CEPEC.

The unstable internal governance in Afghanistan continues to be a source of tension and instability for Pakistan, particularly with regard to issues like security and militancy, even as outside powers to attempt to exert influence. The Taliban's comeback directly affects Pakistan, a major regional actor, particularly because of cross border insurgency. Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts are made more difficult by militant organizations like the TTP, which take refugees in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The northwest regions of



Pakistan, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan, are unstable due to these militant alliances and rising cross-border infiltration (Yousafzai,2022).

Influx of Afghan Refugees

Due to its shared religion and culture with Afghans as well as its national interests at the time, Pakistan's position on the Afghan war and its acceptance of the refugees put it in a precarious position. Pakistan's situation of security was severely impacted by the massive influx of Afghan refugees. The wall chalking in Peshawar and Quetta the manufacture of weapons, drug trafficking, doctrine, and bombings primarily affected NWFP, KP and Baluchistan, the political tensions and economic resources conflicts between Afghans and locals are example of these (Cronin,1985).

The migration of refugees to Pakistan made it easier for Muslim resistance battler known as Mujahideen to live in campus with regular refugees. Pakistan was concerned that the Soviet 'Union might respond to attacks by Mujahideen in Afghanistan by disrupting Pakistan borders without consequence. Because of the porous border and the tribal areas 'literal' "free" status. Pakistan was unable to effectively stop to low of militants into and out of Afghanistan or to halt the refugee crisis. Furthermore, by giving political support to nationalist organizations in Baluchistan and Frontier province, the Afghan governments had jeopardized Pakistan's security. Difficult security issues resulted from a superpower's operational armed involvement in financing a weak and economically deprived regime that progressively opposed Pakistan.

Criminal Activity at the Border and Inadequate Border Management

Afghanistan borders with five other nations in addition to Pakistan, China, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Baluchistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa are two of Pakistan's provinces that are bordered by the Durand Line. The latter, formally known as Federally Administered Tribal Areas, recently combined its seven tribal districts. The Kabul government continuously opposes the Durand Line's recognition as a universal recognized border (Bajoria,2009). Due to inadequate state management of the dialogue to settle the border dispute the Durand line is widely regarded by all neighbors as the most dangerous border. In order to quell the Pakistani resistance Pakistan began military operations against tribal settlements in Afghanistan in 1949 two years of gaining independence (Bhattacharjee,2016). As a result, Pakistan and Afghanistan had border disputes from 1949 to 1950 and in 1955 diplomatic relations were severed. The military forces of Pakistan and Afghanistan engaged in combat along their border in 1961. Due to extremist activity, the border presents a serious problem for both states. The Pakistan-Taliban also known as Tehrik-e-Taliban which has its hideouts in Afghanistan is the main force behind the spread of terrorism in this area (Baqai&Wasi,2021). The rise of Taliban in Afghanistan has led to more attacks on Pakistani security forces from other side of the border, worsening security conditions on Pakistan's border regions (Kaura,2022). However, the civilian population inside Afghanistan was also impacted by Pakistan's defensive response, which involved airstrikes on the militant's hideouts (Kaura,2022).

Impacts of Terrorism on Pakistan

The impacts of terrorism are as follows:

Political Repercussions

Pakistan's leadership was challenged by terrorism, which had a political impact. Pakistan had to cooperate with the United States, but this cooperation caused political issues in Pakistan. This collaboration had a variety of political effects on WOT that called into



question the legitimacy of the government. Pakistan's sovereign status was also being challenged. The United States questioned the role of Inter-Service Intelligence based on questionable reports, and conjectured that ISI established close ties with Taliban and supplied fundamental information. The mistrust between Pakistan and United States grew as a result of this conjecture (Tabassum,2012).

Social Repercussions

Terrorism has a profound effect on Pakistan society, leading to uttermost polarization and disintegration. Following 9/11, Pakistan's human, economic, and accumulation and dictation conditions were severely impacted (Ali,2010). Additionally, during military operations, law and order deteriorated because militants choose a policy of retaliation in response. In the meantime, throughout these about 23 million Pakistanis were forced to migrate and leave their homes as a result of military Operations and evacuating from unstable areas, which presented significant challenges for Pakistani government. The rehabilitation of internally displaced people was a pressing issue facing the Pakistani government (Abbasi,et.al,2013). Because of worsening of problems with unemployment, poverty, IDPs and shelter as well as substantial human cost of the military operation in Waziristan, the critical impact of terrorism in the affected regions could have been observed (Ali,2012)

Between 2001 and 2008 the number of fatalities rose from hundreds to thousands. Due to security precautions and military operations the majority of the region's schools were shut down as a result of militant attacks on schools in Swat, FATA, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Abbasi,et.al,2013).

Effects on the Economy

Pakistan's fragile economy was negatively impacted by the financial limitations. Pakistan's economy benefited from \$19 billion in coalition support funds and other security related funds after the United States lifted its nuclear and democracy sanctions on the country in the war of 9/11. In some parts extremism and uncertainty were at their height. Particularly in the impacted areas where military operations were carried out to drive out the militants, the tourism sector was severely damaged (Abbasi,et.al,2013). low foreign investment was further below to Pakistan's economy. For developing nations like Pakistan, foreign direct investment is a vital source of income. However, terrorism related to insecurity has impacted Pakistan's infrastructure in addition to impending economic prospects. The worst effect of terrorism on the home front, include a decline in Swat's agricultural output, low investments, budget deficit, increase in loans, military spending increased and negative export with domestic loss management (Ali,2010). As a result, terrorism effected most the industry from high to lower level. Trade and Tax collection cots were impacted by the nation's severe security risks. The nation's labor force and material resources were impacted by this economic regression, which also hurt foreign direct investment (FDI).

Effects on the Mind

Psychological trauma resulted from a sense of insecurity and constant threat, while suicide bombings had significant impact on social and economic spheres (Ali, 2010). Social human life deteriorated due to security threats and uncertain activities. Additionally, sectarian based society's way of thinking was disturbed by military operations. Because Pakistan army launched military operations to destroy the militants save heavens, the residents of the conflict areas particularly the tribal areas were subjected to the intensity of these terrorist activities more frequently and were constantly exposed to violence in the form of



stress, fear, insecurity that the local experienced when they lost the homes or loved ones (Abbasi,et.al,2013). The ministry of health states that residents of conflict areas may have experienced depression and PTSD.

Impact on Religion

Religious education was once thought to be a major motivator in Pakistan, a country with majority Muslims. However, 9/11, the socio-psychological fabric of society underwent a dimensional transformation (Abbasi,et.al,2013)., and madrassa culture came to be seen as a major source of religious orientation, ethnic conflicts and extremism (Khan,et.al, 2011). In this regard the Pakistani government was under pressure from US to modernize Islamic education by eliminating content that exacerbated ethnic and extremist tensions in the community.

Impact on Security

In its 2017 report, the study of terrorism and responses to terrorism emphasized that terrorist violence is unstable in Iraq and Afghanistan had the highest percentage of terrorism globally in the twenty first century due to terrorist attacks between 2014 and 2015 these two nations accounted for 46% of all deaths globally with 13% of these deaths occurring in Iraq and 15% occurring in Afghanistan, Pakistan's immediate neighbor. In addition to escalating anti US sentiment, an increase in lineal US missile strikes in Pakistan in 2008 made Pakistan's security problems worse (Siddique,2011,&Shah,2018).

The structure of terrorism reflects political, social, historical and economic factors in Pakistan with relation to Afghanistan. The invasion of Soviet in regions of Afghanistan leading to continues cross-border insurgency or the militant networks risen and Afghan refuge influx. Militant save homes with border of Pakistan and Afghanistan, along in the regions of FATA where Afghan Taliban and Tehrik-I-Taliban coordinate and operate with the allowance of weak states are the one of main cause. The situations which turned the Afghanistan into battleground includes proxy conflicts, regional rivalries and foreign intervention and it disturbs the internal security of Pakistan. During cold war there are major other causes which caused to spread terrorism significantly including religious militancy, jihadist mobilization legacy, and ideological extremism. Furthermore, militant organizations facilitated political instability, ineffective governance and lack of education or poverty in regions along with Pakistan. Afghan refugee crisis and porous border both were main challenges for Pakistan with counter-terrorism efforts. Terrorism are resulted in destruction of infrastructure, widespread fear among civilians and significant loss of life. It also influence on the economy of Pakistan and increased defense expenditures, deterred foreign investment and slowed economic growth. In the fight against terrorism, it affected the image of Pakistan on International level negatively. However, Pakistan worked a lot on reducing terrorism through policy measures, effective border management, economic development, regional cooperation and through military.

History of Afghan Refugees Migration

Following the 1978 Soviet Revolution, Afghan migration to Pakistan started with intervention of Russia in 1979, it became more intense. Since then, there have been several waves brought on by the continuous conflict, close proximity and ethnic ties. Since the 1980, millions of Afghan have sought safety in Pakistan; estimates place the number at a peak of up to 5 million, with an estimated 1.3-1.4 million still leaving there today (Ghosh,2019). Due to shifting security dynamics, international relations and domestic pressure, Pakistan's response to Afghan refugees has changed over time. Pakistan's



infrastructure, resources and economy have been severely strained by the refugee crisis, especially in areas such as KP (Khan,A.Khan.,&Khan,2021). The stability of Pakistan and its policy toward Afghanistan have been impacted by the presence of Afghan refugees in country which has been associated with increased social unrest, militancy and security concerns. Although refugees have increasing the number of people in the workforce, they still struggle to obtain employment, education,and essential services. Returning of refugees is a delicate matter that is impacted by international law, security and human rights peace and development in the area are intimately related to refugee problem. Finding long term solutions requires cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the international community.Due to war, prolonged displacement, shifting governmental policies, Afghan refugees have evolved distinctive identities over time (Abbas,2005).

Implications of the War on Terror for Afghan Refugees Living In Pakistan

Because of WOR, Pakistan's security concerns dominated the conversation about refugees during the war years. The distribution of refugees throughout the nation, was seen as security managers through a security lens, particularly in light of Pakistan's growing terrorist threat during the WOT phase. Due in large part to the perception of their potential affiliation with Afghan Taliban, refugees driven by WOT in Afghanistan faced different situation in Pakistan than previous instances of refugee influx. Therefore, this circumstance directly led to a lack of trust and suspicion. 2006 conflict with Afghanistan created additional challenges for both Afghan refugees and Pakistani hosts. In this situation the Afghan authorities have been accusing Pakistan of cross-border terrorism on a regular basis in 2006. In order to address the accusations, Pakistan was also compelled by the United States and NATO nations stationed in Afghanistan to launch a massive campaign of Afghan refugee documentation and even request their repatriation to Afghanistan. Islamabad faced enormous challenges externally and internally to its national security. From 2006, until the war end in 2021, accusations of cross borderline terrorism purportedly originating from Pakistan to Afghanistan, dominated Western, India, and afghan discourse. High profile Taliban attacks on high security areas, including the capital city of Kabul, during war years led to Afghan accusations against Pakistan and a spat between two nations. Burhanuddin Rabbani, the president of Afghanistan was killed in a suicide attack at his home in September 2011. Then foreign minister of Pakistan made it clear, in a briefing to Pakistan senate that, 'we are not responsible if Afghan refugees cross border and entered in Kabul, stayed in guest house and attacked professor Rabbani" in response to Afghan accusations that Pakistan was responsible for the attack (Fayyaz,S,2018). Pakistani official stated that Afghan refugees major problem because they were responsible for 90% attacks in Pakistan (Gul,A,2021). Afghan refugees involvement in terrorist attacks was Peshawar school attack which cost 154 lives of schoolchildren. Afghan refugee who worked at the school was confirmed to have been involved in the attack which was reveled that terrorism have been planted in Afghanistan. The situation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan was obviously weakened by this incident and they faced numerous challenges. As a result both new and existing refugees were increasingly seen as undermining Pakistan's counter terrorism efforts, Particularly in the region FATA which has been a TTP stronghold since 2007. Afghan refugees faced significant challenges as a result of TTP's cross border terrorism inside Pakistan from Afghan territory, since Pakistani authorities were way of TTP militants entering Pakistan disguised as Afghan Refugees.



Shared Challenges of refugees and Pakistan Alike

Cost Analysis and Techniques Methods and Research on Fiscal Costs:

Refugee factors determine the net fiscal effects age distribution, labor participation, duration of stay and policy work access, permits social service eligibility (Muhtasim,2025). As an example in the stance of the majority of refugees of working age who are permitted to work, net fiscal taxes and consumption can result in a positive contribution, unlike in the case of people who are compelled to rely on others and are not permitted to work in formal employment. There is more short term fiscal pressure on public services. The Pakistan's diverse policy environment is the cause of the inconsistent outcomes. Where the officially recognized refugees were restricted employment rights are located and there are a lot of undocumented Afghans (Varghese,2024).

The Effects of Labor Market and Informal Economy:

Numerous scholars emphasize the importance of informal economy employment system and note that refugees employed in unofficial industries can either lower low-skilled workers pay or allow them to fill labor shortages in industries in which Pakistani labors choose not to work (Ayaz,2023). Pakistan's Grey economy demonstrates the importance of unofficial significant labor markets for refugees, particularly in the city of Baluchistan and KP slumps unregistered businesses and smuggling networks, which alters the structure of labor supply and local tax. Reaction of policy to the reality of participation of informal labor force that does not recognize it that participation will only cause economic activity to spiral out of control (Baloch,2017).

Border Dynamics, Security and Trafficking Militancy:

Security experts like permeable borders and refugee movements to a several problems including the ability of militants to exploit refugee flows and cross border kinship networks to relocate, the reality that individuals, firearms, and drugs are trafficked as a result of unofficial businesses and that the existence of refugees has been utilized to accuse governments in local political politics (Faiq,2022). It is crucial to remember that it is an empirical problem to attribute specific attacks to refugee communities to because refugee communities and terrorist differ structurally but refugees are located in unsafe border regions will complicate police and counter-terrorism activities (Bari, 2024). An increase in cross border mobility and growth in drug seizures that circumvents networked transit hubs phenomena that are engage with the refugee movement, but have been motivated by more extensive regional both criminal and instability market driven (Zubair, 2021).

Influence in Trade and Small Businesses:

Refugees played an active and important role in economy of Pakistan through local businesses and trade. The businesses of Afghans including transport services, small shops and street vending. Those businesses based on informal sector which do not need much more money to start (Afhnan, & Sultan,2024). The businesses provide both local and goods services to sector. Indirectly it helps to increase growth of economy by increasing demand and supply (Faiq,2022).

Economic Repercussions

Afghan refugees and local began to competing for resources, water, food, land and property shortly after the refugees arrived in Pakistan. As a result there was a divide between the residents of two Pakistani provinces KP and Baluchistan where a significant number of refugees were being accommodated. Locals in the two provinces became even more irate as refugees demand for education, resources, energy, employment and transportation grew



over time and decades (Aslam,2001). The impoverished provinces of kyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan have both reported rights, violations and the economic interests of the residents of these two provinces have been significantly impacted by Afghan refugees. Refugees economic activities may benefit a certain class or government but they violates the rights of poor and those who rely on monthly incomes. Because the market follows profit and prefers cheap labor for its own economic interests, refugees work as cheap labor which has an impact on local laborers.

One the factor contributing to inflation's the large number of refugees which also speed up product demand. If resource demand rises, commodity prices will undoubtedly rise as well. Although the market benefits from these activities from the local experience inflation, which fuels their resentment (Aslam,2001).

The fact that the majority of Afghan traders operate their businesses in various cities of Pakistan without paying taxes additional economic concerns. For example, these traders became millionaires in Peshawar alone but they were exempt from paying taxes. These factors burden local taxpayers and business owners, and they also negative impacted the growth of revenue collection (Roehs, 2015). Refugees may also have positive economic impact on their host nations, the country's economic expansion may spur and result in development the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees estimate that a large portion Afghanistan's livestock, including 45,000 camels, 35,000 cows, and 25000 donkeys, move to Pakistan along with nearly 2.5 million refugees. The local market for milk and meat grew and local food purchases increased. International organizations of provision of relief supplies as a result of refugee assistance programs also encouraging for regional economies. Foreign funded initiatives and aid agencies distribute their funds for the developments and construction of infrastructure in the host nation. There are advantages as well, but large refugee population actually burdens the host nation, particularly in less developed nations.

Reasons for Refugee Deportations from Pakistan

Pakistan's decision to deport Afghan refugees is motivated by a number of administrative, political, economic and security considerations. One of the main causes is the country's increasing number of terrorist attacks, many of which attributed to organizations like the Tehrik-Taliban Pakistan, which Pakistani officials claim operates out of Afghan territory. Because of the Pak-Afghan border's porosity, militants have been able to take advantage of refugee status and unrestricted movement, posing a major security risk. Furthermore, there are more than 1.7 million undocumented Afghan refugees in Pakistan, making it challenging for authorities to keep an eye on their activities or offer them legal protection. In terms of the economy the prolonged presence of refugees has put a significant strain on Pakistan's already limited resources, including jobs, housing, healthcare and education. Pakistan claims it can no longer bear the expense of housing such as sizable refugee population due to dwindling international aid. Due in large part to the Taliban's reluctance to take action against anti Pakistan sentiment, political tensions with the Taliban government in Kabul have escalated (International Crises Group, 2023., & Human Rights Watch, 2023).

It also believe that Pakistan exert pressure on the Taliban to cooperate more on security issues by deporting refugees. In addition there is increasing political and public pressure in Pakistan to restrict illegal immigration, particularly in light of social unrest, an increase in crime, and competition for employment. The deportation policy is a



component of larger national security strategy that aims to strengthen border control, preserve internal stability and protect Pakistan's sovereignty. (International Crisis Groups, 2023., & United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees, 2023).

MILITARY OPERATIONS TO COMBAT TERRORISM AND POLICIES OF PAKISTAN

Following the attacks on Pentagon and World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, Pakistan was left with no choice but to join the US in the fight against terrorism. Pakistan reversed its stance on Afghanistan and once more joined the United Pakistan was now prepared to participate in the GWOT as a front line state. Pakistan gave US led allied forces complete logistical, military and intelligence support to start the Global War on Terror in Afghanistan. The Pakistan disregarded any internal opposition to Pakistan's new position as front line state in GWOT and paid no attention to anti-American protests in the nation (Husain, S., 2004). Pakistan changed its stance in the fight against terrorism and is prepared to stop all forms of domestic support for terrorism. Since then Pakistan has made significant effort to eradicate extremism and militancy from its territory, in this regard Pakistan forces have been successful in containing militancy and extremism. President Musharraf was dedicated to eliminating intolerance, extremism and militancy from the nation. He worked hard to end extremism and militancy and demonstrated his unwavering support for the United States in the fight against terrorism on front lines. He took the initial step of launching a crackdown against the elements operating in Pakistan. Given that Madaris was a source of militancy and extremism, and started a crackdown against him. Students of madrassas and religious organizations were speaking out against Pakistan's involvement against terrorism and denouncing Musharraf's new policies. Over 10,000 young students of madrasa from KPK were recruited by Sufi Muhammad to fight alongside coalition forces led by the United States in Afghanistan (Ahmed, 2010).

The United States requested assistance in locating and eliminating the al-Qaeda networks in Afghanistan and as well as in tracking down al-Qaeda operatives in Pakistan. The response of Pakistani security forces and ISI was impressive for Americans. They assisted the US in tracking down and apprehending hundreds of Taliban and al-Qaeda members, many of whom were visible and wanted by US. All foreign and local militant organizations were operating out of Pakistani territory were targeted by security forces. Pakistan started crackdown on al-Qaeda network, and eliminating numerous prominent and highly sought terrorist in a number of Pakistani cities. Khalid Sheikh Muhammad, Abu Zubaydah, Abu Faraj and Amjad Farooq were among them (Gregory, The ISI., & War on Terrorism, 2007). Pakistan detained numerous other terrorists including Egypt, Tanzania and Saudi Arabia and turned over the US. The majority of terrorists who were apprehended or killed were operating from cities rather than mountains or border regions which was extremely concerning for Pakistan. Al-Qaeda presence in Pakistan decreased as a result of these actions and Pakistan stopped serving as a haven for terrorist.

In order to continue operating in Pakistan these militant groups reorganized following these crackdown in the fight against terrorism and reactions to militancy on its territory, these all militant groups have now spread through out the country and begun armed conflict with government. The majority of these militants were engaged in criminal, activity, terrorism and various forms of violence in Pakistan. Some of these groups were fighting against US coalition forces in Afghanistan and had ties to al-Qaeda and Taliban. However, following a crackdown in Pakistan, they returned and began waging war against internal enemies (Hussain, Z., Frontline Pakistan: The Struggle with Militant Islam, 2007).



Al-Mizan Operation (2002-2006): The USA launched its War on Terror following 9/11 and eventually launched attacks and overthrow the Taliban's regime. Numerous militants from Afghanistan settles along the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. These foreign terrorists established a connection with local components based on financial power, old jihadi ties, and ideological appeal and extortion to oppose foreign forces in Afghanistan and pose a threat to Pakistan's independence. This was made clear in 2002 when terrorists attacked and killed twelve thousand South Waziristan Agency security personnel. Acknowledging the seriousness of the situation the Pakistani army began Operation Al-Mizan which include both small and large scale security operations in FATA and SWAT. Ex-FATA saw deployment of armed forces with primary goal of eliminating and containing international terrorists and their enablers who contested the states writ. Having no prior experience with such Pakistani military initially suffered significant casualties due to warfare and false intelligence in opposition to well established and organized militants (Abbasi,2013).

Swat Military Operations (2007-2009): With the assistance of TTP, a significant Islamist Organization known as Tehreek-e-Nifaz Shariat-e-Mohammadi started to gain significance influence in the northern regions of PATA and FATA in 2007. To retake Swat and expel TNSM, Pakistan army had to carry out there significant military operations.

Rah-e-Haq operation (2009) : The military began the brief tied phase of operation Rah-e-Haq in Swat in January 2009 after growing weary of militants in region and its surrounding areas. This time they implemented a "strict shoot at site" policy. TNSM'S fierce retaliation caused the military to halt in February and government and TNSM came to an agreement known as Malakand Accord, which permitted TNSM to impose Sharia in Malakand Division.

Zalazla (2008) Operation: The peace agreement encouraged the formation of TTP led by Baitullah Mehsud. Many Pakistani security persons were killed when Masoud men took control of South Waziristan in 2008. Then operation Zalazla was launched in SW with the goal of apprehending important members of Mehsud's network who endanger the nation's sovereignty in order to counter the TTP's growing influence in FATA and SWAT. The operation removed TTP from control of SWAT. Zalazla operation dislodged about 200,000 local people causing huge hostility and security forces destroyed over 4,000 homes in SWAT (Ishrat,2018).

Radd-ul-Fasaad Operation (2017): With the goal of eliminating the threat of terrorism and consolidating the successes of Operation Zarb-e-Azab, it was a comprehensive nationwide operation that supported local enforcement agencies in every state of Pakistan. The Pakistan navy, army, police and air-force or civil or other warfare armed forces under Pakistan government management participated in operation. Along with eliminating various terrorist groups operating within nation and their diversionist cadre, it has enhanced border security. Since 2007, Raddul Fasaad has been successful in eliminating terrorist elements from KP, Lahore,FATA and Sehwan Sharif breaking the backbone of terrorists across the nation. The world applauded Pakistan's accomplishments and success in this operation. Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism have received recognition (Feyyaz,2020).

Security Policies of Pakistan

Pakistan's policies of security arising from internal stability, geography and regional stability towards Afghanistan has been influenced. National security of Pakistan linked with alteration in Afghanistan through sharing porous and long border. Federal



government of Pakistan make ensure to prevent from instability over border that does not harm the Pakistan. Political engagement, military preparation and border regulation are resulted in form of security (Khan & Shah, 2023). Another attempt Pakistan has made to maintain strategic interests with Afghanistan for shaping environment of politics in Afghanistan was developed. Pakistan also has maintained union with groups of Afghan to influence in Kabul (Ali & Binyameen, 2024).

A significant change came across on borders of both countries are physical border fencing which is a strong pillar of Pakistan's security policy. The purpose of fencing is to reduce crossings and illegal activities in Pakistan. It caused the source of disrupting factor for Afghanistan's legitimacy. Pakistan adds the management pattern of border in its security planning for long time (Shah et al., 2025). Diplomacy tool of Pakistan policy play major role in connection between both countries. After 2021, Pakistan encourage cooperation and stability with Afghan authorities. Towards Afghan security and peace, Pakistan regionally worked with Iran and China. This makes it clear that stability can be achieved through regional cooperation and consensus (Khalid., & Khan, 2025).

Border Fencing Structure

Pakistan has consistently supported international law, claiming that Afghanistan has acknowledged the Durand Line as a legitimate border on multiple business. Authority of Afghanistan influence over Pakistani territory and people is terminated by the Durand Line (Durani,2002). Extremist organizations used this main infiltration route too carry out numerous attacks across both countries via their porous border with Afghanistan. Due to hazardous afghan tract and insurgent bases, protecting this border presented Pakistani military units with significant security challenges. State officials in Afghanistan rejected to cooperate, which limited the military operations. After Kabul fell to Taliban insurgents, Afghan government failed to continue working effectively with Pakistan worsening border situation (Jan,2022).

Conclusion

Influence of Afghanistan on Pakistan's security remained a critical factor due to historical background, shared border, refugee pressure, militant spillover and foreign powers involvement. Afghanistan's instability directly influenced Pakistan's internal and internal security. With the help of USA, Pakistan become front line for supporting Afghan resistance in the period of 1979 when Soviet Union invade in Afghanistan. After USA intervention and withdrawal of Soviet Union, Afghanistan faced instability, militarized militant groups emerged and attack on Pakistan using Afghan territory which increased insecurity in Pakistan. Afghanistan become a security threat and challenge for Pakistan. On the other hand the conflict put economic major burden on Pakistan. Over several decades, afghan refugees pressurized government of Pakistan for education, labor markets, health care and housing. Population increased, economy shrunked, trade opportunities on border reduced and investments are effected in regions. Pakistan initiated policies towards supporting cooperation with international powers, Afghan factions, border fencing along with Durand Line and military operations against militant groups. Military operations conducted against terrorism many times in Afghanistan. Future security of Pakistan depends on counter-extremism policies, regional cooperation, combining border management and diplomatic engagement. Afghanistan remains a security challenge and central factor to influencing economic stability, terrorism and regional peace to Pakistan.



Pakistan should needs to adopt a policy that can balances the need of security with long term economic engagement, security protection from terrorist attacks and diplomacy.

Recommendations

Measures of Counter-Terrorism strengthen

Pakistan with understanding and coordination between intelligence agencies, border security forces, military and police should strengthen the counter-terrorism. Before any attack carry out, intelligence help out to find militant networks. While attacks emerged from border regions, attention should be given on that side specifically. To the protection of country, citizens, reduction of cross border security threats and internal stability, counter-terrorism policies should be necessary.

Policy Adoption towards Balanced Talibanization

For national security, Pakistan should directly continue diplomatic engagement with government of Taliban. Diplomatic talks helps to find out a better solution which should be based on practical cooperation without any ideological and emotional support. Pakistan should pay heed towards that any piece of land of Afghanistan not used to attack on Pakistan. While diplomacy helps to resolve issues like refugees, border tensions and trade. Balanced policy used to protect strategic interests of Pakistan.

Pakistan Counter Extremism Policy

Through reforms of political, structural and social, Pakistan must eradicate the causes of extremism. The ideas of extremists spread where lack of education, poverty, weak governance and unemployment emerged. This is the responsibility of government to invest in vocational training, awareness campaigns, youth employment and peace keeping programs. Steps against hate speeches and reforms in Madrassas should be taken.

Management of Refugee Policy

Pakistan take steps regarding refugees with the help of International Organizations and United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees. For security concerns in Pakistan, Afghan refugees should be registered and biometric verification used. Pakistan received high funding for hosting refugees and provide basic needs of education, health, shelter facilities, jobs, local resources and public services. It can reduce tensions of security threats.

Reduction of External Powers Dependence

It was seen that historically major big powers already taken benefits from Afghanistan and also create instability for long term. Pakistan should need to avoid dependence from China, International actors and United states. Pakistan should formulate independent policy which can fulfill their own interest and security needs and should be focused on national interest rather than external. It can strengthen diplomatic position of Pakistan.

Permotion of Economic Cooperation in Region

Pakistan should grow economic cooperation through transit agreement, trade corridors and infrastructure development with neighbouring countries and Afghanistan. It may improve regional connectivity, employment, increase exports with Afghanistan. Trade projects like CPEC, BRI and pipeline and many others with Iran, China and Central Asian Countries may lead economic opportunities. Independent countries avoid from wars and stand with peace keeping policies.

Strategic Long-Term Policy

Pakistan should adopt long term security and consistent strategic policies towards Afghanistan rather than short-term. This can gather border security, refugee management, trade relations, regional cooperation and diplomatic policies together for better relations



and security protection. Uncertainty for foreign stakeholders will reduce through consistency in policies. For safeguarding Pakistan's regional stability and national security long term vision is essential.

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