# Emerging Security Challenges to Pakistan in the Modern Age of Globalization

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## ABSTRACT

The redistribution of power from the West to the East and the North to the South has resulted in the promotion of multi-polarization. It has accelerated globalization and technological growth, and has also promoted the integration and fragmentation of free flow of goods, finance, people, and ideas. At the time of the birth of Pakistan, there was no radicalism and terrorism in the country. Pakistan is located at such a crucial point on the map of the world because of which it has faced a lot of security problems. Pakistan paid a heavy price for involvement in the "9/11" US-Afghanistan war. The new wave of terrorism in the country compelled the government to change its foreign policy and bring new changes in the security structure of the state. There is political instability in the country and the civil–military leadership is not on the same page. Moreover, Pakistan requires a strong counter terrorism strategy and there is a dire need to reinterpret its security policy.

**Keywords:** *Globalization, Security challenges, Foreign policy, War on Terror (WoT)*

## Introduction

Security is a controversial but basic concept that continues to emphasize the state of anarchy of the contemporary world politics in context of national security and development. The major trends that affect national security problems can be identified after carefully analyzing certain factors. First, the redistribution of power from the West to the East and the North to the South has resulted in multi-polarization of the world. Secondly, acceleration in the process of globalization along with rapid technological growth has promoted the integration and fragmentation of free flow of goods, finance, people and ideas. On the other hand, the rise of violent non state actors for the use of terrorist weapons for political interests is doubling the challenge of national security. In their joint impact, these powers are testing the security of states in jumper's ways. Because of the development of its flanks, Pakistan is particularly affected by the influence of these factors. Looking forward to the future, politics in our neighboring areas may seem to damage the national security and development of the country. On the domestic front, the internal security challenge has become a major source of

concern, affected by the regional security situation. This change determines the need for an effective long-term national security policy, which is supported by both parties and is always enforced as a state (Khokhar, 2015).

At the time of the birth of Pakistan, there was no radicalism and terrorism in the country. Religious and partisan movements were restricted. However, the Iran Revolution, the Afghan Jihad Culture and the Taliban government had the opposite effect on the peace of Pakistan. In addition, during 70s and 80s, the Islamization arrangement of General Zia brought about a new philosophy of Pakistan (Afzal, Iqbal, & Inayay, 2012). During the administration of Zia, religious schools were built, which were later used to create the Taliban. The Jihadi culture of Taliban established its root among the people and got support from the political and religious elites of the country ( Malik & Zhilong, 2019).

By the time the United States attacked Afghanistan after 9/11 episode, a strong ascent was observed in terrorists and radical exercises. Terrorism and radicalism spread throughout Pakistan from FATA, which become the breeding ground of extremism (S. Malik, 2009). In short, we can say that terrorism and fanaticism have turned in another security threat to Pakistan's presence due to the progression in innovation and globalization as the terrorists used the latest technology. Moreover, Pakistan is confronting security threats as a result of its part in War on Terror (WoT). Moreover, the defective policies of the government in the late 1970s also played their role in deteriorating security situation (Shah & Ayaz, 2015).

Pakistan is located at such a crucial point on the map of the world because of which it faced a lot of security problems. Presently, Pakistan is confronting a lot of problems that are a constant source of threat to its security arrangement, that include the climate change, narcotics trafficking, terrorism, separatism movement, disarmament, spread of weapons of mass destruction, the legal protection of gender and personal issues (Yaseen & Muzaffar, 2018). After the 9/11 incident, Pakistan is facing internal and non-traditional security risks from the Jihadi terrorists, in addition to traditional internal threats to cultural terrorism, nationalist terrorism and sectarianism. We can describe terrorism as a non-traditional practice of violence or a political message through violent acts which is a symbol of tussle against the system ( Malik, Zhilong & Ashraf, 2019).

Pakistan paid a heavy price after the "9/11" incident due to its involvement in US-Afghanistan war. It was Pakistan who created and supported the Taliban during the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan, and later was forced to choose the strategy against Taliban. When Pakistan took part in the War on Terror against Taliban in Afghanistan, this aggravated the Taliban extremist jihadist and they started attacking the Pakistani territory. Although the then President of Pakistan Musharraf decided to take the side of the U.S. in its War on Terror in Afghanistan but still the nation continue to be trapped in an extremely complex network of terrorist activities (Javaid, 2016). 9/11 is one terrorist event in the United States, but a lot of such events happened in Pakistan, which weakened the law and order of the country. No place is safe in the country because of the explosions and suicide attacks (Syed, Saeed, & Martin, 2015).

The new wave of terrorism in the country compelled the government to change its foreign policy and bring new changes in the security structure of the state.

Although Pakistan faced terrorist incidents from the very beginning of its inception, but the intensity and diversity of these violent events increased manifold after the second Afghan war. Due to this insecure environment and increase in the terrorist activities, the brain drain from the country started and about six million Pakistanis have move to safe and secure countries. Pakistan's economy has faced loss of $68 billion due to terrorism(Feyyaz, 2013).

**Geographical Location of Pakistan**

Pakistan is located at such a crucial geographical point where two nuclear powers China and India are having historical conflict, instability in Afghanistan due to War on Terror and terrorist activities inside its territory further exacerbate the challenges. These factors put Pakistan in a paradoxical situation. Pakistan can cleverly change the circumstances in its favor to protect its national interests. A peaceful and stable Afghanistan can bring prosperity and peace in Pakistan. The attack on Afghanistan after the Twin Tower attack has not only destabilized Afghanistan but also has severely affected Pakistan. Because of non-state actors in the form of Al-Qaeda and Taliban, the militancy in Pakistan is escalating(Perveen, Khalil, Ahmad, & Khalil, 2015).

Pakistan has a real national security problem, including external security and internal security. There is a consistent assumption that the current national security difficulties in Pakistan are mainly from the "internal". Pakistan is a nation that has been gifted with gigantic assets, if used effectively can usher its national interests without being subjected to worldwide weight and pressure. However, shockingly, in spite of having colossal possibilities, Pakistan's mainstays of national power are excessively feeble, making it impossible to ensure its national points and objectives (Yamin, 2015)

In the post 9/11 era, the globe experienced the danger of terrorism, which forced the threatened countries to send collective efforts to deal with the risk of terrorism. The national security approach is a multifaceted task to provide welfare and security for our urban communities and to manage their improvements. It includes the fundamental standards of association, comfort, sharing system, straightforwardness and development. It is urgent for Pakistan to adopt such welfare and security procedures to support its monetary improvement and the safety of local residents(Khalid & Kamal, 2015).

The withdrawal of the United States from Afghanistan will not only affect Afghanistan, but also is a cause of concern for Pakistan, because it will produce different situations. In the three possible situations, the most favorable is a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, which will not only enable Pakistan to focus on its own domestic issues, but also helps to establish trade links between Afghanistan and Central Asia. A possible second scene is a protracted civil war and the third and most serious situation is the Taliban occupation of Kabul, which will put further pressure on terrorist activities in Pakistan (Imran & Xiaochuan, 2017).

Afghanistan and Pakistan are of immense Geo-strategic and geopolitical importance. Both the countries share same culture, religion, history and ethnicity. But Durand line is a bone of contention between two countries, Rise of terrorist activities in the region and frequently blames on each other have worsened the situation and made them enemies instead of friends. After the Soviet invasion,

Afghanistan has posed a serious threat to Pakistan and this threat increased manifold after the US attack on Afghanistan (Sultana, 2015). Pakistan has paid a heavy price on War on Terror. It has lost more than thirty five thousand lives and economic loss amounted to 67 billion US dollars. But still US is not satisfied with Pakistan and the demand for it to "Do more"(Khan, 2013).The rapid changes in the current global security situation have affected the national security of Pakistan in many ways. We should expand diversity, and highlight the importance of universality, capital, ideology and vicious non-state actors to describe the changing needs of individuals, so as to establish the goal of a view, which is an important condition for Pakistan's national security review(Rabbi, 2012).

The domestic security situation in Pakistan has become a challenge to national writs due to the rise of extremism and terrorism in the country. The terrorist incident with TTP was the main internal security threat in Pakistan because of which the government launched Operation Zarb e Azb in North Waziristan (FATA) against TTP's sanctuary and their foreign supporters(Ahmad, 2010) .

## Security Concern Initiatives for Pakistan

"United Nation defines security as a condition where the nations are free from the danger of insurgency, political instability or economic setback's, so that they are able to progress freely."

There is a strong need to plan a strategy which defines the security concern for Pakistan. The components for the security concerns of Pakistan are highlighted in the following paragraphs:

### i. Illegal Infiltration at the Borders

Pakistan is a country which possesses multiple types of borders such as demarcated, un-delineated, ceasefire lines, lines of control, lines of actual contact and working boundaries. These multiple types of boundaries give rise to border security challenges. Pakistan is a country which inherited borders disputes with all of its neighboring countries. The border disputes with India and Afghanistan is a constant source of security threat (Neill, 2010). The disputed Durand Line between Pakistan and Afghanistan is a main source of threat for Pakistan as most of the militant infiltration into Pakistan is taking place from this point. A number of foreigners are involved in destabilizing the province of Balochistan. Six Indian embassies are located near the border on which Islamabad has a serious concern that they are harboring armed groups who are carrying out attacks across the borders (Zeb, 2006).

### ii. Counter Terrorism

Pakistan came under serious threat of terrorism shortly after the 9/11 incident. After US-led military campaign the Al-Qaeda and Taliban leadership slipped into Pakistan's tribal areas and started expanding their support base in other areas of K.P.K and soon established its link with Pakistan based sectarian militants. Soon they started launching guerrilla operations not only against the US military, but also against the people of Pakistan. At this crucial time Pakistan needed a strong and effective counter terrorism strategy in order to fight this menace of terrorism. Today, Pakistan ranks 3rd in the world in terrorism related deaths and still it does not have any concrete counter terrorism policy. National Counter Terrorism

Authority (NACTA) is the only counter terrorism agency in the country. Moreover, a separatist movement is also present in Balochistan. A strong role of India is there in fueling violence across Pakistan, especially in Balochistan. Both of these matters are of extreme concern for the Muslim state in terms of security dynamics (Mahmood Ahmad Muzafar, 2015).

### iii. Shortcomings of Secret Agencies

The communication and sharing network of Pakistan security agencies is very weak. Proper and accurate information is not available and the technology present in the country is also not advanced. The security staff is not trained for emergency. The police are politicized and corrupt. Due to lack of resources no intelligence is shared between the agencies and it has failed to respond to terrorist activities on time resulting in a large number of casualties.

### The Root Causes of Terrorism in Pakistan

It is very important to know the root cause of terrorism and most important one should understand the motive and purpose of the terrorists who are responsible for such acts. One should identify the root cause of terrorism so that reduction in it takes place. Scholars are of the view that religion, illiteracy, poverty, injustice are the main reasons of the root causes of terrorism. It is difficult to elaborate what are the major causes of terrorism because definite types of causes, such as poverty is the main cause to produce all the social evils in the society, of which terrorism is one (Bjørgo, 2005). British PM Tony Blair said that the teeth of terrorism have been deeply rooted in the structure of society because of unjust policies and disputes left to rot for a long time or even decades (Blair, 2006). According to Piazza poverty and ignorance is the main cause of terrorism (Piazza, 2011) . According to Erich & Christopher for Combating Terrorism the only way to decrease the support for a terrorist organization is to win the "War on Poverty" (Erich & Christopher, 2008) . The 2000 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kim Dae-Jung said that, the main cause of terrorism is poverty (Jai, 2001). These fears are partly correct, but the operation of a large number of terrorist organizations with absolute immunity, as in case of Pakistan, poverty is not completely responsible. Berrebi findings are that increasing the education level or raising the employment level will decrease the level of terror as in his view illiteracy is the main reason of terrorism (Berrebi, 2007). But when one look at the 9/11 attackers none of them were poor or illiterate or religious. The main cause of that attack was the existence of supportive infrastructure and state backing. So terrorism is about the power struggle. Groups and individuals involve in terrorism solely to get power. In short, we can say that the root cause of terrorism is different for every terrorist incident.

### How to Improve the Security Situation of Pakistan

The wave of terrorism in Pakistan has resulted in sectarianism and national terrorism in whole country. Pakistan cannot stand against this wave and there is possibility that it may push a nuclear country like Pakistan to fall down. In order to curb the menace of terrorism, Pakistan has supported almost all the UN resolutions and also signed ten UN anti-terrorist convictions. The Government of Pakistan should take initiatives in order to prevent terrorism and control the security situation of the country. In this regard it should take the following steps:

- Collaboration with global forces to eliminate terrorism

- Introduction of immigration management activities so that the movements of anti-state elements can be controlled

- Severe actions against the extremist entities and their financial supporters

- Incarceration of heads of jihadi organizations

- Putting a ban on jihadi organizations

- Introducing following reforms in madrassas:

    a. Proper registration

    b. Legal funding resources

    c. Constant review of their policies and actions

    d. Monitoring their syllabus and other activities

    e. Compliance with appropriate legal requirements like obtaining NOCs etc.

    f. Implementation of check and balance systems for foreign students

- Regulation of all mosques in the following ways:

    a. Obtaining no objection certificate should be made compulsory for all Mosques

    b. The administrators of Mosques must not be allowed to carry political activities in the premises of mosques

    c. Controlling the use of loud speakers so that no hatred of any kind can be spread

    d. Efficient record keeping of staff associated with the Mosques

**Conclusion**

The post 9/11 terrorism has resulted in the dawn of a new insecure Muslim state surrounded by hostile neighbors. Pakistan was forced to take part in Afghanistan Soviet War and War on Terror, which resulted in serious implications on Pakistan's internal security structure. Resultantly, terrorism in the country increased, the economy was badly damaged and it paid unimaginable price in the form of loss of lives. There is political instability in the country and the civil-military leadership is not on the same page. Moreover, Pakistan requires a strong counter terrorism strategy and there is a dire need to reinterpret its security policy.

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