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### Terrorism in Pakistan: Genesis, Damages and Way Forward

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## Terrorism in Pakistan: Genesis, Damages and Way Forward

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**Abstract:** Pakistan came into being as a truly democratic Islamic state, she was once a state with strong economy, stable government and policies. The golden principles of peace, liberty, and justice were preserved in its basic idea which led to the creation of an independent state. This research investigates the causes and impact of war against terrorism on Pakistan's economy, governance and social life. The data was collected through sources available on official websites, available literature were taken into consideration and by using a questionnaire from 320 respondents living in FATA area. Evidence is highlighted through tables, percentage values and graphs. Empirical results show that terrorism has substantially affected Pakistan's economy and governance in terms of unemployment, poverty, high cost of security in public and private sectors, uncertainty and high cost of doing business. Finally way forward to overcome the shortfall is suggested.

**Keywords:** Democracy, extremism, ideology, nation-state, policy, reforms and strategy.

## Introduction

The nation-state is a western political entity, the result of a “competitive enterprise of war and politics”; thousands of rival authorities were eliminated or subordinated before the existing state structure succeeded in expanding the boundaries of its centralization. The evolution of state as enshrined in the Western concept of democracy went farther than establishing control, order and conditions of internal peace. It granted autonomy to various state organs through its own needs and promoted civil liberty and economic growth. In case of Pakistan, people have neither accepted the Westminster democratic norms nor have followed their own particular custom. Resultantly, democracy in its true essence couldn't be implemented despite a number of experiments. Adoption of important Westernized concept of democracy in developing nations may not portend well. The state has to weigh as to whether it has to follow the inherited system of governance (developing nations who remained in the chains of colonialism), or to address the needs of its people while keeping in view the religion, culture and civilization. Islamic golden principles of liberty, justice and peace can fit in any form of democratic rule. The system of governance introduced and set by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) and further practiced by his Honourable Caliphs, offers ample guidance and does not let the followers astray. Unfortunately, these golden rules have not been followed in true letter and spirit, instead various forms of governance have been followed, which failed to keep the followers as a true binding force. Instead, it created dichotomy in minds that resulted into fissures in the society. Seventy years have passed and nation is confused what democracy

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is delivering in Pakistan or what the other military rules gave. Pakistan came into being as a truly democratic Islamic state, she was once a state with strong economy, stable government and policies. The golden principles of peace, liberty, and justice were preserved in its basic idea which led to the creation of an independent state. Regrettably, the coming generation failed to implement the vision of forefathers. The garden full of flowers has now become a bunch of thorns, which requires cleansing and reformation. The current menace of extremism predicates on weak institutions, unstable political system, social injustices and economic turmoil. To counter all, there is a need to have strategies in every sphere of life. The research argues that ideological, political, social and economic reforms are immediately required as nation's response to take Pakistan out of the current fiasco and resort to basic principles of justice, equality, and freedom as enshrined in all religions and more so in Islam.

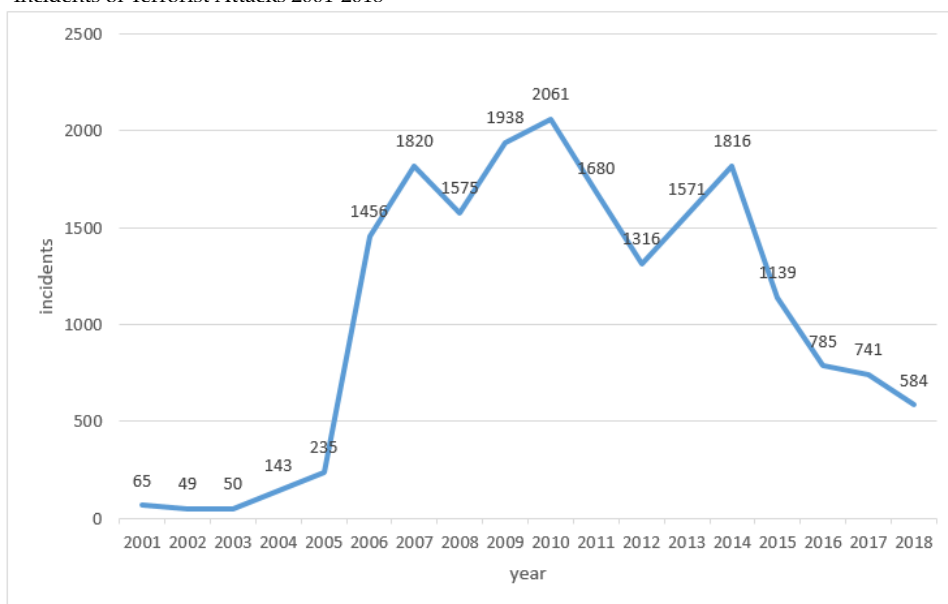
## **Genesis of Terrorism in Pakistan**

Pakistan has been at the epicenter of both terrorism and the war against terrorism. Global scene is evident that Pakistan has also been the victim of terrorism. Terrorism is extreme form of violence to the social norms and is done with full preparations and executed with a well-thought-out plan (Nizami, Hassan, Yasir, Rana, & Minhas, 2018). Pakistan came under terrorism soon after attack on twin tower on 9/11. "The making of terrorism in Pakistan: historical and social roots of terrorism, by Eamon Murphy" establishes that the uprising of terrorism in Pakistan was controlled from outside (Romaniuk, 2015). India is the major contributor as far as terrorism in Pakistan is concerned; and the reason is India's fear that the only resistance in the region for her geographical and political influences is Pakistan. India and Pakistan have ideological differences since 1947 when both the states got independence from British. Poor education system in Pakistan, law and order situation, ethnic diversity in the society, mass migration to urban areas and internal as well as regional military operations are aggravating the terrorist activities in Pakistan (Syed, Saeed, & Martin, 2015). As a result of USSR invasion in Afghanistan over 35 million Afghan refugees migrated to Pakistan. Later, sizeable number of those became carrier of narcotics and small arm weapon and ammunition. Those were motivated to adopt the way of terrorism. Therefore, Western border of Pakistan became a safe entry and exit route for terrorists.

## **Damage Caused by Terrorism**

Pakistan is the most affected state as a global war on terrorism, she has sacrificed lives (both civilian and military), material and the infrastructure. Governance system has been badly disturbed due to involvement of civil government in military forces in counter terrorism role. Study reveals that during 2006 and 2015, Pakistan suffered maximum terrorist attacks (NACTA REPORT 2018, 2019).

**Figure 1**  
Incidents of Terrorist Attacks 2001-2018



Source: NACTA REPORT 2018 National Counter Terrorism Authority, Islamabad Published: April, 2019, Page 43, <https://nacta.gov.pk>

Table-1 bellow reflects that during 2018, all over Pakistan in 584 terrorists attacks there were 1256 casualties (both deaths and injuries).

Table 1  
Area wise Terrorist Attack During 2018

Province/ Region	Incidents	Killed			Injured		
		LEA*	Civilian	Total	LEA	Civilian	Total
Balochistan	228	90	198	288	236	431	667
FATA	239	72	66	138	174	111	285
KPK	71	23	36	59	61	137	198
Punjab	18	7	8	15	6	54	60
Sindh	15	4	6	10	9	24	33
GB	8	5	0	5	4	4	8
AJ&K	4	1	0	1	3	1	4
ICT	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
	584	203	314	517	494	762	1256

Note: LEA\* = Law Enforcement Agencies FATA = Federal Administrative Tribal, Areas KPK= Khayber Pakhtun Khaw (former NWFP).

Source: NACTA REPORT 2018 National Counter Terrorism Authority, Islamabad Published: April, 2019, Page 34, <https://nacta.gov.pk>

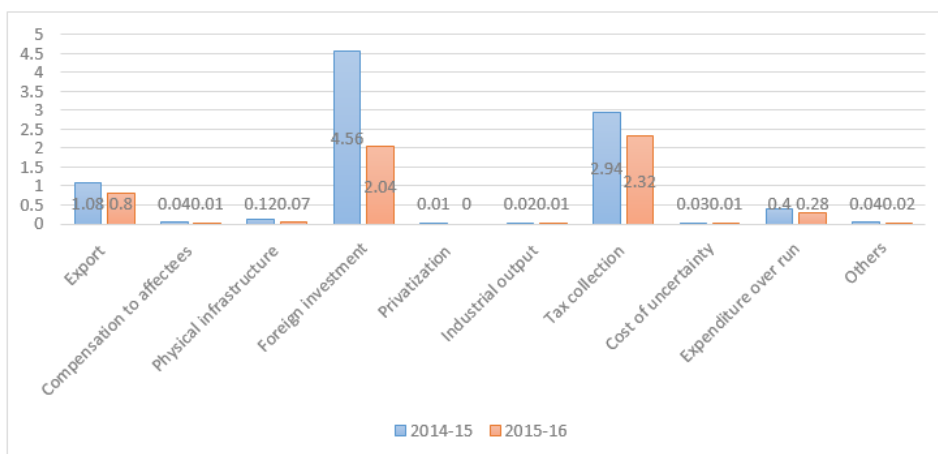
## Effects on Economy

As a result of weak economy situation, government fails to impart quality living to the public. Living cost increased, more expenditure was incurred on security rather than education, health and infrastructure. Pakistan has suffered huge economic and human losses due to the war in Afghanistan which started after 9/11 incidence in the United States. Israr Khan reveals in his report published in "The News", Islamabad that Pakistan has suffered \$123.1 billion loss in war on terror because Pakistan became frontline ally of the United States (Khan, 2017).

Table 2  
Summary of losses due to terrorist attack

S#	Organization	Year		
		2014-15	2015-16	Total
1	Export	1.08	0.8	1.88
2	Compensation to affectees	0.04	0.01	0.05
3	Physical infrastructure	0.12	0.07	0.19
4	Foreign investment	4.56	2.04	6.60
5	Privatization	0.01	0.00	0.01
6	Industrial output	0.02	0.01	0.03
7	Tax collection	2.94	2.32	5.26
8	Cost of uncertainty	0.03	0.01	0.04
9	Expenditure over run	0.4	0.28	0.68
10	Others	0.04	0.02	0.06
<b>Total</b>		<b>9.24</b>	<b>5.56</b>	<b>14.8</b>

Figure 2  
Pakistan Economic Survey



Source: Pakistan Economic Survey, Chapter 4, Annex IV, Impact of War in Afghanistan and Ensuing Terrorism on Pakistan's Economy,

[www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters\\_14/Annex\\_3.pdf](http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_14/Annex_3.pdf)

The figures revealed by the ministry of finance government of Pakistan that in FY 2018 Private Investment as percentage of GDP was 10.3 that dropped to 9.8 percent FY 2019. Public including General Government investment also slowed down from 4.8 to 4.0 percent during the discussed period ([Pakistan Economic Survey 2013 - 2014, 2014](#)).

## **Effect on Education**

Education does not mean acquiring degrees only but it contributes in character building, civilization, ethics and social values. Education keeps a society balanced, a state progressive and a nation alive ([Akhter, 2016](#)). Though Pakistan suffers a lot due to terrorism but figures indicates that a number of institution have been increasing yearly. However, the types of institutions and kind of education system in Pakistan do not suffice for the population increase.

## **Way Forward**

### **Economic Revival**

To provide dignity to human souls, the first basic requirement is that they should be well fed (Maslow's theory of hierarchical needs) without begging. This means providing enough opportunities to the people so that they can earn bread for themselves. To achieve that, intense economic activity will have to be jump started to create jobs. Specialists of finance, Human Resource Management, infrastructure development, etc., should be teamed up for finding a solution to this very important issue. Economic activities must be pushed and evenly spread to remote corners, FATA and other backward areas to ensure weaning away the youth from illegal activities of narcotics, gun running, abductions and joining anti-state forces, etc. Now this is easier said than done. However, well-meaning Pakistani professionals can find a solution, as there has been seen spurts of rapid development during the tenure of certain regimes. To provide dignity to human souls, they should be well fed through improved and stable economy. Economic activities must be pushed and evenly spread to remote corners of the country, especially Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Balochistan and other neglected areas.

### **Contemporary and Compatible Education System**

Each child must be provided with equal opportunities of good education and grooming. That is the only way to take advantage of a vast population base (that has nearly increased to unmanageable proportions). Education should be imparted on solid scientific lines that must invoke comprehension rather than just learning. It should inculcate both logical and creative thinking, resulting in propping up good workers, managers and professionals. Adequate opportunities for physical activities and games to such a large chunk of population will ensure high physical standards with probability of more international level players, etc. This would be the most difficult task to be taken on war footings.

Table 3  
Number of Educational Institutions By Kind, Level And Gender

Year	Primary (000)		Middle (000)		High (000)		Technical & Vocational Institutions		Higher Secondary/ Inter College		Degree College		University
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total
2000-01	147.7	54.3	25.5	12	14.8	4.6	630	236	1,710	691	366	171	59
2001-02	149.1	55.3	26.8	12.8	15.1	4.6	607	239	1,784	731	376	177	74
2002-03	150.8	56.1	28	13.5	15.6	4.8	585	230	1,855	768	386	186	96
2003-04	155	57.6	28.7	13.9	16.1	5.1	624	228	1,989	822	426	206	106
2004-05	157.2	58.7	30.4	14.8	16.6	5.3	747	328	1,604	684	677	331	108
2005-06	157.5	59.8	39.4	19.3	22.9	8.1	3,059	1,475	2,996	1,484	1,135	664	111
2006-07	158.4	60.9	40.1	17.5	23.6	9	3,090	1,491	3,095	1,420	1,166	631	120
2007-08	157.4	64.9	40.8	20.6	24	9	3,125	1,507	3,213	1,642	1,202	700	124
2008-09	156.7	63.4	40.9	20.4	24.3	9.2	3,159	1,523	3,242	1,707	1,336	733	129
2009-10	157.5	60.6	41.3	19.5	24.8	10.6	3,192	2,182	3,329	1,763	1,439	821	132
2010-11	155.5	58.2	41.6	20.4	25.2	9.5	3,224	2,206	3,435	1,690	1,558	814	135
2011-12	154.7	57	41.9	21	28.7	11.6	3,257	2,229	4,515	2,184	1,384	643	139
2012-13	159.7	60.1	42.2	21.4	29.9	12.3	3,290	2,253	5,030	2,410	1,534	683	147
2013-14	157.9	60.3	42.9	21.1	30.6	12.6	3,323	2,276	5,179	2,462	1,086	518	161
2014-15	165.9	66	44.8	22.4	31.3	13.1	3,579	1,819	5,393	2,567	1,410	308	163
2015-16	164.6	65.3	45.7	27	31.7	15.6	3,746	1,514	5,470	1,437	1,418	260	163
2016-17	168.9	59.1	49.1	27.9	31.6	14.7	3,798	1,536	5,130	2,689	1,431	344	185
2017-18	172.2	66.6	46.8	27.1	31	14.1	3,740	1,123	5,231	2,490	1,657	839	186
2018-19	174.9	67.7	47.8	27.7	31.2	14.2	3,842	1,154	5,273	2,510	1,684	852	-

Source: Pakistan Economic Survey 2018-19, page 127, Economic Adviser's Wing, Government of Pakistan, Finance Division Islamabad  
www.finance.gov.pk

The local government and influential people can help by first establishing numerous new schools district-wise, and then help in running these schools administratively (and also academically where possible). Various streams of education be abolished with only one or two maintained. Most importantly, education should be reformed to invoke comprehension, inculcate both logical and creative thinking, and provide opportunities to all alike for physical activities.

### **Effective Law Enforcement System**

An almost total breakdown of law and order has created a “free for all” like situation. Personal and group motives are being achieved through unlawful and violent means, blurring the distinction between hard core terrorist acts and individual heinous crimes. Police and judiciary have lost their trust and professionalism, due to absence of prosecutions and punishments. This existing archaic police force and inefficient judiciary need to be completely revamped. For this, vigorous planning, legislations and immediate actions are required. The government and the society need to assert themselves and bring back discipline and civility. The trust in judicial system and policing is the second step required to start movement towards normalcy and social stability. This would entail a well thought out plan and vigorous implementation to carve out an efficient and professional police and judiciary. A group of retired/serving police and judicial officers may prefer their recommendations. High quality recruitment, continuous training and grooming with no political interference in promotions, appointments and postings should be the hallmark of a new system.

### **Restoring Originality of Ideology**

In the presence of so many interpretations and sectarian leanings, one accepted form of Shariah laws cannot be evolved. Forcing the injunctions of one majority sect over all others would be difficult to accept and practice. Thus basic principles of justice, equality, education and cleanliness should be ensured. These are enshrined in all religions and more so in Islam. Freedom for all and running the state according to the shining and agreed principles of Islam can be the nation’s slogan. It perfectly matches with the ideology on which nation struggled for independence. People should stop quoting what various leaders said at different occasions rather a fresh start should be taken, without undermining our “reason to exist”. For this our political parties, media and scholars have to play an important role. Our present Constitution with some modifications can still serve us very well. The debate about secular or theological state should end. Nation should organise according to the Constitution of Pakistan that assigns enough ‘Muslim identity’. This idea needs to be propagated and finalised with cogent arguments, keeping it open to progression and modification.

Inter-institutional wrangling must end and piety, justice and freedom must become the hallmark of society.



## **Extreme Trends in Society Require Cleansing**

Today, terrorism and extremism in the manner that we understand (open insurrection as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, etc.) is only one advanced manifestation of organized extremism and sectarianism. Pakistani society, unfortunately, is plagued with a vast variety of hues and intensities of extremism. Government and people have neglected this menace for an extraordinary long time, and today nation finds itself faced with an uphill and complicated task of dealing squarely with it. As the cancerous growth has invaded and mutilated our social, religious, economic and political structure, we need to take immediate and strong steps to quickly separate this diseased mass and throw it away from our main body. The extremists are looking beyond the tribal areas to transform Pakistan into a theological state through regime change, invading the society and become a state actor from a non-state actor. Though the present militancy is mostly confined to tribal areas, but existence of capability in soft regions of Pakistan and a potential of the two combining in future, has created a situation of high security concern. We feel suffocated, weak and helpless to act comprehensively against this foreign body invasion. The Armed Forces of Pakistan are doing their best to fight against the physical epicenters of this malice, but such large scale kinetic operations alone are not the complete panacea for this horrible mind-set. It has permeated into the length and breadth of our society and is deeply ingrained in various tiers of our polity. As a matter of concern, a full blown operation may manifest like an armed civil struggle, because the resistance at intellectual, political and physical levels is inadequate.

## **Writ of Government through Good Governance**

The single most important factor which is difficult to tackle would be separating the religious feelings from the entire cleansing process because the perpetrators of this horrific phenomenon took advantage of our five exploitable vulnerabilities of religious/sectarian cleavages, poverty and bad governance. And now their extreme views and acts have been so intermingled with religious feelings that any strike, ideological or physical, against these entities, would be taken as a war against religion that would be the Achilles heel of this entire campaign. An extremist ideology itself will never accept a direct defeat. Therefore, the strategy to counter extremist tendencies transformed into extremist ideologies based on religious motivations, could be nothing else but a superior ideology or a superior argument aimed at changing the total environment to ultimately make the extremist ideology irrelevant. To prevent an extremist ideology by taking advantage of slow pace of change of environment, the hard force must continuously keep defeating the extremists overt and covert militancy. Thus, besides the use of force, the extermination of these germs would take huge religious, ideological, political, social and economic reforms. And all this has to be undertaken immediately, by a large group of reformists, belonging to all the above mentioned disciplines. Now, the million dollar question; which entity has the moral and physical authority to plan, organize and execute such a move? In my opinion, a group of enlightened politicians, jurists, religious scholars, journalists, media persons and security experts, led by the sitting government, should undertake this task so that both

the extremists and people at large take it as a combined social response. This 'Task Force' should be given authority to guide and coordinate the efforts of all relevant ministries ensuring synchronized effects against the extremist thoughts and terrorist acts. Following needs to be done in various areas. To bring back discipline and civility, the state and society must assert and carve out efficient and professional executive machinery with no political interference.

## **Conclusion**

Reverting back to the golden principles of piety, justice, freedom of following any faith, as enshrined in Islam (like most of the other religions), will become the basis to fight back at ideological and intellectual levels against the extremist mind set. Provision of good education, economic and health opportunities to the under-nourished and poverty-stricken millions, would provide the bare minimum dignity that human beings deserve, to become worthy of independent thinking, and shunning blind following of exploitative terror mongers. Evolving an efficient policing and non-corrupted judiciary will give protection and confidence to law abiding citizens, by cleansing the society from bullies, thugs and thieves. All the above can only be achieved through the joint endeavors of all the state organs, media and civil society. The environment now seems to be ripe for bringing about such a transition, if by stroke of luck, we get a good leadership. All inter-institutional wrangling must end and let us join hands to salvage our dear Country from present dangers, posed by a deadly combination of illiteracy, poverty and dismal state of governance.

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