



RESURGENCE OF **TERRORISM**

Perspectives from South Asia

Times Glo Mission and Vision

Welcome to the second issue of the Times Glo e-magazine. It has been a remarkable journey since we started Times Glo (<https://timesglo.com/>) in August, 2021.

Our theme for this magazine is “Resurgence of Terrorism: Perspectives from South Asia”. This includes looking at the root causes of terrorism, the current wave that has hit the South Asian region and various counter-terrorism strategies that have been used.

The credit goes to our team of brilliant writers, researchers and editor for the quality content on our website.

Times Glo is a publishing hub to cater articles related to global politics and socio-economic affairs.

Our tagline “Intellect to Influence” is inspired by our uber-talented youth who have the power and vision for a positive change.

Our goals to achieve

1 To feed our audience with high quality content on international events, current affairs, history, socio-economic issues and Pakistani politics.

2 To provide a publishing platform for potential writers all across the globe where they can showcase their work and continue towards a trajectory of becoming better writers.

3 To inspire a positive vision in our youth for a positive change

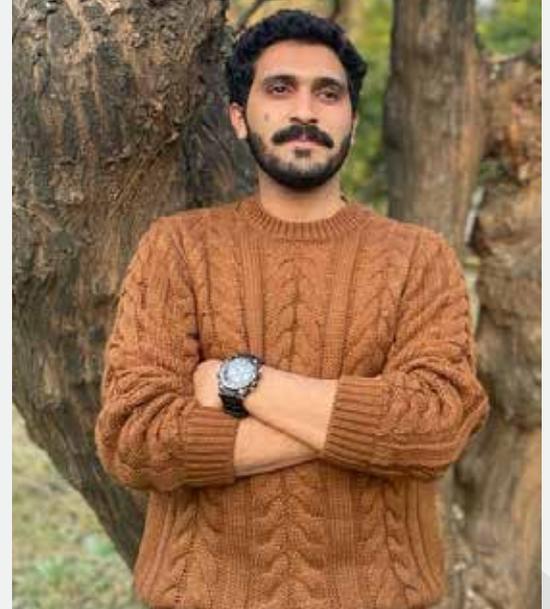
We have selected six outstanding articles among a hundred submissions, and we hope you will learn something from them.

For us to effectively broaden our audience, we sincerely hope that you will think about sharing our website and magazine with your friends and family. Once again, we want to thank you for your continued support.

Muhammad Faisal Riaz

Faisal is the Co-Founder of Times Glo who is motivated to offer young people a cutting-edge learning environment. His main goal is to use facts and judgment to influence prospective policy decisions. Faisal is motivated to advance the society and impart critical learning among the masses contrary to the conventional wisdom.

He has himself conducted interviews with experts who had considerable knowledge to contribute, while also building a community of audience who are eager to learn and borrow something unique and invaluable.



Ramsha Qaiser

Ramsha is the CEO of Times Glo, and it is her goal to make a platform that is objective, non-chaotic, and a teaching tool for everyone. She envisions Times Glo to grow into a digital think tank that offers unique policy briefs on the issues that are of mass importance. By offering fresh perspectives, her organization aims at building an inclusive environment for all those who want to have their say in the international affairs.

She is also currently pursuing her M.Phil in International Relations from Quaid i Azam University, Islamabad and occasionally writes articles on current issues for Times Glo.

Editor's Note



Hamna Muzaffar

Hamna is the Editor in Chief of Times Glo. She is currently pursuing her M.phil in *International Relations* from Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad

The various militant organizations that operate in Afghanistan maintain intricate networks of relationships; on various levels, they cooperate and compete, band together for a common goal while retaining autonomy, experience changes in the cadres' allegiance, and serve as fronts for various outside parties. The withdrawal arrangement with the United States was made more difficult in certain ways by this intricacy. However, it represents a substantial barrier to the Taliban regime's efforts to win over the world. This circumstance is used by many militant groups to further their own objectives. In this sense, Pakistan must deal with the TTP while India must deal with the ISI-supported extremist groups AQIS, IS-K, and operating from Afghan territory.

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan represents a victory and serves as a means of idealizing the return of the Islamic Caliphate wherever it is feasible. With India and Pakistan at the heart of the region and Afghanistan at the center of global politics, this has created a new security complex in South Asia.

This magazine is a collection of six articles, each offering a unique policy perspective on the issue of terrorism. These may help the readers think critically about the issue at hand, while also encouraging them to impart new approaches to it.

This issue offers an impartial analysis as to our reader's comprehension of the current state of terrorism.

Expert Opinions



Ihsan Ghani

who has held the offices of Inspector General of KP, Director General of the Intelligence Bureau, and National Coordinator NACTA- Took us on his journey of combatting terrorism and formulating tactics, during an interview with our team. He talked about his time serving as Benazir Bhutto's chief security officer and the dangers he encountered while serving as the intelligence bureau's director. The conversation also looks into possible causes for the resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan following its defeat in 2010 and beyond. He concluded by giving a policy brief to the counterterrorism institutions that updates the existing tactics and makes suggestions for actions to be made to counteract the ideological nature of terrorism.

Expert Opinions



Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal

In a talk that explores the present status of terrorism in Pakistan and the resurrection of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, Team Times-glo sat down with Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal to discuss terrorism and TTP resurgence in Pakistan (TTP). Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, a famous political scientist and expert on security and foreign policy matters in Pakistan, provided a professional insight. A summary of the present situation of terrorism in Pakistan, including the TTP's revival and other terrorist organizations in the area, is given at the outset of the conversation. The causes of this comeback are then discussed by Dr. Jaspal, including political unrest, economic problems, and the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

On our YouTube channels, Times Glo and Times Glo International, you may find the complete interviews



Saher Ahmed

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Saher Liaqat works as a researcher with the China-Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

Unpacking the Relationship Between CPEC and Terrorism in South Asia

Over the recent decades, regionalism in South Asia has necessitated collective endeavors to aid weaker economies, ethnoreligious cleavages, and political fragmentation and subsequently address the entrenched diversion primarily between the two main regional actors, India and Pakistan. The idea of an Economic Corridor has been the focal point of foreign policy strategies to facilitate the greater integration of the Asian region.

Encapsulating President Xi Jinping's strategic vision of revitalizing the ancient Silk Road into the majestic Belt and Road Initiative in 2013 to enhance economic and regional connectivity, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor came to the limelight in 2015 as the epicenter of this project. The CPEC is a Beijing-financed infrastructure project comprising highways, rail networks, Special Economic Zones, and other energy projects to be completed by 2030.

Beijing and Islamabad are significant to this multi-billion-dollar venture worth \$62 billion. However, given the resurgence of terrorism in South Asia, the project faces multifaceted security risks to its timely implementation and operationalization. The critical location and scope of CPEC create security concerns for the project's infrastructure, workers, and investors and threaten the whole business environment.

The Balochistan factor

The resurgence of terrorism in South Asia in recent years has constantly threatened the CPEC. The prime location of CPEC's infrastructure-based projects is the Balochistan region which has a horrible history of long-running separatist insurgency marked by violence and terrorism.

Baloch resistance primarily emanates from the grievances of Baloch nationalists, given the exploitation of resources and underdevelopment of the region for decades. The recent wave of insurgency in the Balochistan region has been beleaguered by massive development projects in Gwadar by the central government, mainly excluding the welfare of the locals. The resurgence of terrorism in the region, therefore, adds another layer of complexity to the security situation in Balochistan, making it a challenging environment for infrastructure development. Balochistan Liberation Army's growing capabilities are assumed to have the support base from the TTP.

We can find various high-profile terrorist



attacks by ethnic separatists in Pakistan, constantly targeting Chinese nationals and infrastructure projects. The history of targeted attacks against Chinese nationals is not new. Whether it's the 2018 suicide bombing that killed three Chinese engineers in Balochistan province, the July 2022 attack on a bus carrying Chinese and Pakistani nationals to the construction site of the Dasu hydropower project, killing nine Chinese engineers, the suicide terrorist attack on Karachi Confucius institute at Karachi University by a female Baloch separatist, or the most recent targeted attack on Chinese Dentist in Karachi in September last year, all create hurdles for the successful implementation of the CPEC.

Complex Security Situation of Pakistan and CPEC under Threat:

The CPEC faces multifaceted security concerns, given the resurgence of terrorism. The security risks can therefore cause delays in the implementation of the projects, economic slowdowns, political instability, and inter-state tensions. There is an increased fear that the local terrorist groups, primarily Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and international Jihadi organizations such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS, might exploit the numerous opportunities of CPEC to carry out malpractices detrimental to the country's economic prosperity and region's stability.

Moreover, inter-state tensions due to the resurgence of terrorism also complicate the security situation for CPEC. For instance, the attacks on the CPEC have raised questions about Pakistan's ability to provide adequate security to Chinese workers and investments, leading to a strained relationship between the two countries, with China compelling Pakistan to take more robust measures to ensure the security of the CPEC.

India has also expressed concerns about the security implications of CPEC as it passes through the disputed Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan, on which India has its claims. Since the CPEC provides China greater access to the Indian Ocean, it could also encircle India. Though India has not been directly affected by the attacks on the CPEC, the security situation surrounding the project has added to the already tense relations between India and Pakistan. If there are any attacks on the CPEC project, it is likely to escalate tensions between the two nuclear-armed

neighbors, further straining their already fragile relationship. These tensions can impact the implementation of infrastructure projects and overall regional stability and cooperation.

The western front of Pakistan faces strained relations with Iran over cross-border terrorism. The Pak-Iran border has long been expected to serve as a support base for the Balochistan Liberation Army. Iran has also accused Pakistan of not doing enough to control the activities of terrorist groups operating along the border, which has led to cross-border attacks and instability.

Afghanistan, which shares a border with Pakistan, has also been affected by the security situation surrounding the CPEC. The attacks on the CPEC have raised concerns about the spillover of violence into Afghanistan. Some terrorist groups responsible for the attacks are believed to have links to the Taliban and other extremist groups operating in Afghanistan. The CPEC has also led to concerns about China's increasing influence in the region and its potential impact on the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.



CPEC as a Crucial Facet of Pakistan's Anti-terror Campaign:

Given its increased vulnerability of Pakistan to the threats of terrorism and separatism, the credibility and timely implementation of the CPEC has consistently been under question, and China also views Pakistan's security with an eye of suspicion. In this regard, it is critical to view CPEC as a crucial facet of Pakistan's Anti-terror campaign. To mitigate the project's security risks, China and Pakistan have taken several measures to improve security along the CPEC route. These measures include deploying additional security personnel, establishing a dedicated security force to protect Chinese nationals and projects, and developing a coordinated security plan for the entire CPEC route. The project's association with terrorism in South Asia has raised concerns about its long-term impact on regional stability and security. It is important for all parties involved to address these concerns and work towards a peaceful resolution of the underlying issues.



Maria Mansab

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Maria Mansab is an MPhil Scholar at School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid I Azam University Islamabad, doing her thesis on “Pakistan-Iran Economic Relations: Challenges and Opportunities”

Her Areas of Interest include Middle East and South Asian, International Law and Gender Issues.

Civilizational Conflict and The Rise of Radicalism: A South Asian Perspective

The South Asian region today confronts a serious security concern, due to rising acts of extremism and terrorism. The contradictions resulting from flawed national policies, ideological conflict based on counterbalanced economic aspirations, conflict along the lines of civilizations, and conflict connected to the very core of their religious and cultural foundations can all be linked to the politics of violence and extremist trends in South Asia. Samuel P. Huntington foresaw the emergence of a new type of struggle between civilizations that would soon rule the world. In other words, human races would revert to their religious and cultural roots as a solid base and aim their weapons at opposing value systems. The tectonics of a new era of world conflict, described by Huntington with an epic title, "The Clash of Civilizations," would be defined by the razor-thin frontiers of civilization.

The South Asian Viewpoint:

Every region of the world experienced the conflict in one way or another. But the 9/11 tragedy in 2001 was undoubtedly its most terrible spectacle. This served as a metaphor for the conflict's ugliness and ferocity. The US was leading

an uprising of Islamist fanaticism against the West. When President George W. Bush referred to the War on Terror as a "crusade," a metaphor evoking the medieval carnage that occurred between Christian Europe and Islamic Arabia, the attacks were swiftly followed by substantial retaliation. With the rise of three major players—China, Pakistan, and India—South Asia also became a scene for the clash of cultures. Although not a part of South Asia, China has indisputable geopolitical significance there and is therefore a crucial topic of research. The interests of a coalition of classes and ethnic groups frequently guide how South Asian states operate, which has an impact on their development strategies and resource allocation. One of the main reasons for violence in the region is the pace, nature, and dynamics of South Asia's unequal growth patterns. In addition to these South Asian republics' failure to modernize, political culture has fostered ethnic solidarity and affiliation with religion and culture. Stability and interstate relations are seriously threatened by ecclesial, ideological, and political tensions. Fundamentalists and ethnopolitical violence are two issues that each state must deal with, and these issues are converging as the socio-economic conditions deteriorate.

India's Policies: A Leaf Out of Israel's Book:

If anything, the Hindu nationalist BJP in India has greatly benefited from the clash of cultures. The BJP has been effective in uniting the electorate behind the cause of protecting India's Hindu heritage by repeatedly referencing the threats posed by the Islamic 'civilization' represented by Pakistan, which is right next door. Two examples of how the party promotes the preservation of Hindu values, not just culturally but also physiologically, include banning the killing of bovine species that are revered in Hinduism and maintaining a patriarchal check on interfaith marriages between Muslim men and Hindu women. Cultural pride, chauvinism, and supremacy are the forces that drive civilizational battles, not compromise. So, the BJP's success depends on its image as India's "civilizational" party.

Specimen of Clash and Communist China:

The communist forces in China completely exterminated all religions, giving the country's politics a wholly atheistic tinge that borders on religious hysteria. Nonetheless, China stands



out as a unique participant in this conflict due to its fervent belief in the superiority of its culture and the defense of its linguistic heritage. The "Middle Kingdom" of the world, which formerly beckoned all other human races to pay respect to it, is what the Chinese have long thought it to be. When the Enforcement of Sharia Act, which established Sharia law, was passed in 1991, Pakistan completely embraced its Islamic identity. The process had already started, though, when Pakistan's parliament passed a new "Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan" in 1973, reinforcing Islam's role as the primary driving force behind the nation's governance, law, and economy.

Pakistan and South Asian Players:

When the Enforcement of Sharia Act, which established Sharia law, was passed in 1991, Pakistan completely embraced its Islamic identity. The process had already started, though, when Pakistan's parliament passed a new "Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan" in 1973, reinforcing Islam's role as the primary driving force behind the nation's governance, law, and economy. All three of the major South Asian players have returned to the core of their civilizational ideals. All three of them are very strong militarily and have sizable nuclear arsenals. So, the contemporary South Asian experience can be used to study the Clash of Civilizations in great detail because it serves as an example of this terrible worldwide event.



Stability and interstate relations are seriously threatened by ecclesial, ideological, and political tensions. Fundamentalists and ethno-political violence are two issues that each state must deal with, and these issues are converging as the socio-economic conditions deteriorate. For several reasons, such as perpetration by despotic and aggressive regimes and rebel groups, socioeconomic injustice, ideological inconsistencies, religious convictions, and foreign intervention, terrorism and the rise of extremism have been occurring across South Asia. Yet, the main causes of the emergence of extremism in South Asia have been the region's deteriorating socioeconomic conditions, government policies, and outside meddling. Interstate relations in South Asia have been immediately impacted by terrorism and its political repercussions, which have also contributed to regional instability.

Conclusion:

The main issue causing instability in the region is extremism. The South Asian states must change their self-justification strategies and address public complaints if they are serious about solving their problems. Governments must give socioeconomic issues and human security the highest importance because they are the main source of discontent for the general public, especially among educated and jobless youth, who are easy targets for extremist organizations that exploit them in their terrorist actions. Due to the problem's added external dimension,

a concerted regional effort is also necessary in addition to individual state efforts to combat extremism.

The failure of the state to address issues of public security and complaints, as well as the failure of society to rein in extremist and intolerant impulses, has resulted in persistent and gradual regional problems that cannot be solved overnight. Radicalization cannot be defeated unless a comprehensive strategy is developed to address the problem of terrorism at the state, societal, and regional levels.





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New Trends of Terrorism in South Asia: Inter-Organizational Learning and Female Fighters



Terrorism remains one of the most pressing issues in South Asia, with a recent surge in attacks by various extremist groups. While there are many factors that contribute to this problem, two that are often overlooked are the phenomena of inter-organizational learning among terrorist groups and the use of female fighters.

Inter-organizational Learning

Inter-organizational learning among terrorist groups operating in South Asia refers to the sharing of information, tactics, and resources between different terrorist organizations. This phenomenon has been a concern for security forces in the region, as it allows these groups to improve their capabilities and carry out more sophisticated and coordinated attacks.

One of the most notable examples of inter-organizational learning in South Asia is the establishment of formal networks and alliances between terrorist groups. For instance, in Pakistan, various militant groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) have been known to work together and share resources. Similarly, in Afghanistan, the Taliban and the Haqqani Network have cooperated in various attacks against the government and foreign troops. This type

of cooperation allows these groups to pool their resources and expertise, making them more capable of carrying out large-scale, sophisticated attacks.

Joint Training Programs

Another way in which terrorist groups in South Asia are sharing information and resources is through joint training programs. In the past, members of different groups have been trained in weapons handling, urban warfare tactics, and other specialized skills. These training programs enable members of different groups to learn from each other and to gain new skills that they can then take back to their own organizations. This sharing of knowledge and expertise can lead to an increase in the effectiveness of terrorist attacks.



The impact of inter-organizational learning on the effectiveness of terrorist attacks in South Asia is evident in the increasing sophistication and coordination of attacks. For instance, in 2019, a series of coordinated bombings in Sri Lanka, carried out by a local extremist group, resulted in the deaths of over 250 people. The investigation revealed that the group had links to other international terrorist organizations and had received training and support from them.

The international community has been taking steps to address inter-organizational learning among terrorist groups in South Asia. For example, the United Nations has been working to strengthen cooperation among countries in the region to counter terrorism. However, these efforts face many challenges, such as lack of trust among countries, political instability, and an inability to share intelligence effectively.

The trend of terrorist groups using female fighters has also caused a surge in terrorism in South Asia, as it has allowed these groups to evade detection and carry out

attacks that would otherwise be difficult to execute. However, it is important to note that this trend is not unique to South Asia and is also happening in other parts of the world. Additionally, it is important to critically evaluate the extent to which this trend is causing a surge in terrorism in South Asia, as there are other factors at play.

One of the most notable examples of this trend is the use of female fighters by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). In South Asia, ISIS has been known to recruit women to carry out suicide bombings and other types of attacks. This is part of a larger strategy by ISIS to use women in combat roles, which is not only happening in South Asia but also in other parts of the world.

One of the recent examples of the use of female fighters for terrorist activity in South Asia was the suicide bombing attack in the capital city of Kabul, Afghanistan, in August 2020. The attacker was a woman who targeted a wedding hall and killed 63 people and injured more than 180 others. The attack was claimed by the Taliban; however, the Afghan government and the U.S. government have blamed the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) for the attack. This highlights the fact that terrorist groups in South Asia, including the Taliban and ISIS, are increasingly using women in combat roles as it allows them to evade detection and carry out attacks that would otherwise be difficult to execute.

It is also important to recognize that the use of female fighters by terrorist groups is not the sole cause of a surge in terrorism in South Asia. The region has long been plagued by various forms of extremism and militancy. The reasons

for this are complex and multifaceted, including poverty, lack of education, political instability, and lack of economic opportunities. The use of female fighters by terrorist groups is just one aspect of the problem and should be seen in the larger context of these other factors.

Furthermore, it is also important to consider the impact of the use of female fighters on the communities that these women come from. For example, many of the women who have been recruited by ISIS in South Asia have been taken from their families and communities, and this can have a devastating impact on the people who are left behind. It is crucial for the government and the international community to provide support for these communities and address the underlying issues that make them vulnerable to extremist recruitment.



Conclusion:



In conclusion, inter-organizational learning among terrorist groups and the use of female fighters in South Asia are two significant problems that are contributing to the surge in terrorism in the region. To effectively counter this threat, it is essential for the international community to understand and address these phenomena. This can be done through increased cooperation among countries in the region, better use of technology, and effective intelligence sharing. It's crucial for the government to take sustainable and well-thought-out measures for the betterment of the region, rather than short-term populist gimmicks.



**Lou
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Complicated Past, Complicated Future

Being a region of complex geography, intertwined histories, multifaceted cultural systems, and a multitude of identities, this kaleidoscopic nature and features of South Asia exemplify pluralism and ideally should strengthen the potential of a shared future with regional harmony and consolidated peace with all of its people. However, instead of strengthening inter-regional harmonization between nations, these facets exert a domineering presence on the regional questions of peace and stability. These facets acting as conflictual instead of functional and primary region-wide conflictual state is the matter of terrorism.

As a region, South Asia is not a stranger to the problem of terrorism. In historical terms, the region had known many of the world's most violent eras of terrorism from actors and organizations belonging to rightist and leftists ideological leanings. Regionally, among the most violence-prone manifestations, three of the most enduring form of terrorism stems from left-leaning Maoists, right-wing Islamists, and a number of ethnonationalism-leaning groups and movements proliferating the complicated South Asian landscape of security, stability, and violence.

To underline the history, motivations, tactics, and operations of each of the organizations involved in either of the three forms of terrorism is beyond the scope of this essay. To give a more nuanced understanding of regional terrorism,

this essay is organized around the ascendance of all three forms of terrorism and how these relate to the strategic trends of increasing polarization between governing authorities and oppositional politics, international power competition and regional insecurities, and social inequality and authoritarian political systems.

The Violence of the Left



While the Maoists insurgency in Nepal officially came to an end with an agreement in 2006, the splinter groups from Maoists still retain the potential to wreak havoc upon the fledging democratic transition in Nepal. The government continues to strike new agreements with different factions to preserve the 2006 agreement yet the underlying causes of

concentration of power, haphazard economic development, and checkered provision of goods and services to people continue to act as stimuli for various factions to make their voice heard through acts of violence. However, the agreement still holds in Nepal and there's a tense state of peace between the Nepalese state and Maoists.

However, the evolution and mutation of Maoist insurgency in India follow a different path through the insurgency itself was born out of similar social and economic grievances which influenced Nepalese Maoists. Moreover, the elements of separatism, ethnonationalism, and indiscriminate violence including against civilians and multinational companies are added to the mix of Maoists (Naxalites) insurgency. The violence perpetrated by Maoists was reduced between 2009 and 2021, however, in the same 2021 year, Maoists once again increased violence by killing 22 security forces personnel. Maoist insurgency in India is a continued, low-intensity conflict in the key strategic locations of the Indian geography. They also play a broader role in the Indian-Chinese relationship as allegedly China coaxes them whenever tensions with India rise. The rise of Hindutva nationalism in Indian politics also leads to fears of overpowering indigenous lands and people with capitalist development and deprivation of basic rights and resources to local people thus increasing Maoists and indigenous political parties' frustrations with Indian security institutions. Besides left-leaning and ethno-nationalist Maoist insurgency, India is also confronted with the rising challenge of rightwing terrorism no less by people within the broad umbrella of Hindutva nationalism.

Enter: Separatism

The fusion of separatist terrorism, state violence, and ethno-nationalist ambitions prefigures the violence perpetuated by Tamil Tigers and Islamists in Sri Lanka. The story of Tamil Tigers was a harrowing reminder of the most brutalizing aspects of terrorism. They were involved in the most audacious terrorist violence the region has ever seen and, by some accounts, termed the originators of suicide bombers in the region's modern history. While the Sri Lankan state crushed the Tamil insurgency and achieved a decisive victory in 2009, the militant undercurrents of political authoritarianism, imbalances in ethnic power sharing, and religious hatred carried on unabated. The rise of Islamist violence with the 2019 Easter bombing possessed some of these elements alongside the radicalization of Muslims and Buddhist violence against Muslims. While no major terrorist attack has occurred since then, the strong sentiments of hate and polarization fraught Sri Lanka's political landscape which resulted in the political protests recently. Also, the transnational angle cannot be ignored as suspected attackers in the 2009 bombing were believed to be ISIS-inspired. Given the window of opportunity, there remains a potential for various groups to use violence against a weakened state.

Identity, Authoritarianism, and Terrorism

The transnational angle as well as Islamist leaning is also evident in Bangladesh. While there has been a marked reduction in terrorist violence from the late 1990s to 2019, the threat of Islamist violence internally and with a transnational network remains potent. The authoritarian politics of Hasina Wajid and the security-centric agenda of her government also plays a role in preventing terrorism. However, with every suspension of civil and political freedoms, the Bangladeshi state creates more opportunities with its repression of terrorist violence by groups within even if transnational connections were severed.

Transnational connectivity, identity concerns, political authoritarianism, and global power competitions all feature heavily in the twin cases of the intense upsurge in terrorism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The history of these twin cases is well-known but the lightning attack and the capture of power by the Taliban in 2021 of the Afghan state continues to have a lingering impact on the dynamics of terrorism within the country, in Pakistan, and regionally. Both countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, along with regional Central Asian states and Iran with international powers such as China, Russia, and the United States are all heavily involved in pressurizing the Taliban not to let terrorist groups within the country proliferate regionally.

This international and regional effort is increasingly becoming a failure as various groups including Islamic State (IS) and Al-Qaeda is threatening the Taliban-led government, the Pakistani state, and other regional states. Amongst other countries in South Asia, it is in the twin cases of Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only cases in which terrorism is exponentially rising with no immediate remedial solutions being offered by state actors and international powers. In Pakistan, the rise of Islamist violence also connects with the long-running ethnic insurgencies in the peripheries, especially in Balochistan. But both Islamist and ethnic violence tend to stem from the same sources of political authoritarianism and underdevelopment or unequal development.



Conclusion

The convergence of authoritarian political administration, social and economic inequalities with the capitalist form of development, majoritarian subsuming of minority identities, and international and regional power struggles fuels the surge in terrorism most emphatically seen in the twin cases of Afghanistan and Pakistan with tense peace being held in Nepal and low-intensity insurgencies carried out in India. The failure of the governing authority in Sri Lanka to administer the state and the high-handedness of government in Bangladesh are keeping terrorist violence in stasis but the undercurrents are still there, waiting for the opportunity to strike against the adversarial state.

The arch of terrorism in South Asia has a checkered history and a more ambivalent present. Governing authorities are doing all they can to curb, contain, and combat terrorist threats without addressing the underlying challenges of unequal development, political marginalization, and ethnocentrism. These challenges in the first place are what influenced the insurgencies in many different places in South Asia. The pluralism which exemplifies South Asian kaleidoscopic expressions in history, culture, identity, and geography should exemplify the approaches South Asian states adopt in the challenge of terrorism.





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The Impact of Terrorism on Economic Growth in South Asia

Terrorism has become a pervasive threat globally, causing immense human and economic losses. In South Asia, a region marred by political instability, religious extremism, and ethnic conflicts, terrorism has significantly impacted economic growth. The impact of terrorism on the economies of South Asian countries is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed in today's world. This article delves into pertinent issues surrounding the impact of terrorism on economic growth in South Asia. It provides historical context, analyses the economic impact of terrorism, identifies the challenges faced by South Asian countries, and offers recommendations for countering these issues.



South Asia has a long history of terrorism dating back to the 1970s. Initially, terrorism was mainly associated with separatist movements and insurgencies in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. However, over time, terrorism has become more complex and intertwined with

global jihadist networks. The rise of terrorism in South Asia is closely linked to various factors, including religious and ethnic conflicts and political interests.

Both India and Pakistan have experienced incidents of communal violence, such as the Hindu-Sikh riots in India and the Shia-Sunni riots in Pakistan, that have contributed to the expansion of terrorism in the region. The 9/11 attacks in the United States and subsequent events in Afghanistan and Iraq further fuelled terrorism in South Asia. Today, the region faces a mix of local and transnational terrorism, with groups such as RSS, Al Qaeda, ISIS, and Taliban having significant presence and influence.

Terrorism has severely impacted economic growth in South Asian countries. The direct economic losses from terrorist attacks include damage to infrastructure, loss of property, and loss of life. The indirect costs are also substantial, including reduced foreign investment, decreased tourism, and disrupted supply chains. For instance, Pakistan has not only suffered an immense loss of life and infrastructure due to the impact of terrorism, but it has

also incurred significant economic costs, amounting to approximately \$40 billion since 2001-2002. Furthermore, Pakistan's economy has suffered export losses of around \$6 billion because of the war on terror.

The Pakistan Economic Survey 2016-17 reported significant economic losses due to terrorist attacks. The losses from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017 were estimated to be approximately US\$10,373.36 million. The data suggests that terrorism has significantly impacted Pakistan's economy, affecting multiple industries and sectors. The 2008 Mumbai attacks, which targeted iconic landmarks and luxury hotels, caused an estimated \$1.7 billion in direct economic losses and affected the city's tourism and industry.

The impact of terrorism on specific industries or sectors is also significant. The agriculture sector, which employs a significant portion of the population in South Asian countries, has been affected by terrorism-related disruptions in transportation and distribution channels. The textile and garment industry, which is a major export sector in Bangladesh, has faced challenges due to terrorist attacks targeting foreigners working in the industry. Critical for economic development, the energy sector has also faced challenges due to terrorist attacks on pipelines and energy installations. Industrial output suffered losses of US\$29.38 million, and expenditure overruns amounted to US\$1,197.11 million.



South Asian Counterterrorism Challenges

South Asian countries face several challenges in combating terrorism and its economic impact. One of the major challenges is the lack of cooperation and coordination among countries in the region, even though these countries have formed important alliances such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Terrorist groups often exploit cross-border vulnerabilities and use safe havens in neighboring countries, making it difficult for individual countries to tackle the problem alone. Another challenge is the lack of resources and capacity to combat terrorism effectively. The region has limited resources to invest in modern technology and intelligence gathering, making it vulnerable to sophisticated terrorist attacks.

Governments and businesses in South Asian countries have responded to these challenges by increasing security measures, investing in modern technology, and promoting regional cooperation. For instance, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has initiated a regional counter-terrorism strategy to enhance information sharing and

cooperation among member countries. The government of Bangladesh has made significant investments in improving security measures to reduce the likelihood of terrorist attacks.

The future outlook for terrorism in South Asia remains uncertain. While some progress has been made in combating terrorism, the threat continues to evolve and adapt to changing circumstances. The rise of transnational terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the growing influence of extremist ideologies pose significant challenges for the region. South Asian countries must prepare for potential future scenarios by investing in modern technology, enhancing regional cooperation, and promoting economic diversification.

Counterterrorism and Economic Growth Strategies

In order to effectively prepare for potential future scenarios, South Asian countries must adopt a multifaceted approach to combat terrorism and its economic impact. This approach should encompass various strategies such as investment in modern technology and intelligence gathering, enhanced regional cooperation and information sharing, promotion of economic diversification, and fostering social cohesion and inclusion. Furthermore, it is

recommended that the governments of India and Pakistan prioritize cohesion over war.



These countries can potentially reap significant benefits by investing in trade, mutual cooperation, and human capital. A prime example of such an approach is the European Union, which demonstrated remarkable progress following World War II. Despite being neighbors, South Asian states exhibit limited trade and cohesion, often resulting in conflicts and undesirable outcomes. Such practices are viewed with disdain by the international community. Adopting a more strategic and cohesive approach will enable South Asian countries to achieve tremendous economic success and stability.



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Military Offensive Measures and Terrorism

Terrorist activities have once again gained momentum. The wave of terrorism is spreading at an alarming pace. Last year in December, militants attacked the police station in Lakki Marwat which claimed the lives of police personnel and on the same day, terrorists sieged the Counter Terrorism police station in the same division, Bannu and reportedly took seven police personnel as hostages. Recently, a gruesome suicide bomb blast happened in the mosque in police line Peshawar which took the lives of dozens of police personnel. The unfolding of such events in the backdrop of political and economic instability is quite alarming and challenging. The government intended to kick start the operations against terrorism as usually, it is the option opted by every dispensation in Pakistan.



Military operations have successfully thwarted the terrorists' activities but could not uproot the evil of terrorism. Operations resulted in the hibernation of terrorists and the threat to our national security and interests remains

undamaged. Does our experience pose questions that why military operations cannot contain the phenomena of terrorism or the kinetic measures a successful strategy against terrorism? Such points are worthy of consideration in a strategy against terrorism.

Several military operations have been carried out at different periods. Military has gained huge success in these operations, destroyed the terrorists' networks, reduced their strength and took over large swaths of land which were in the control of terrorists. But terrorists still wage their activities. They target our national interests and jeopardize our national security. They resurface in the news through their malicious actions and their presence is reported in different regions. Last year a wave of terror was witnessed as terrorists resurfaced in several regions in swat. Military operations or kinetic measures are not sufficient for the containment of terrorism. It can only curtail their strength and reduce their activities.

Kinetic Measures

Firstly, Military strategy mainly focuses on kinetic measures. The operations dislocate the terrorists and bring them to their knees. It also shows the strengthening of our resolve against terrorism and earns a good name for us on the international level. But the offensive measures against terrorists result in the displacement of the local population, destruction of people's homes and sources of livelihood, and consequently feelings of resentment arise in the hearts of the local population against the state and military.

The destruction brings by operations marginalises the local population and the subsequent creation of checkpoints, military patrolling and several restrictions on normal life further alienate the local population. The kinetic measures bring peace to troubled regions, but their consequences also put the peace in inevitable danger.

Dismantling terrorist ideologies

Secondly, Military operations dismantle terrorist organisations but they cannot defeat their ideologies. One of the reasons why operations cannot eliminate the threat of terrorism is that they bring an end to terrorist activities, although their ideologies remain intact. Ideology is an everlasting force which keeps the terrorists united and nurtures their notorious ambitions. It acts as a dormant force and can give life to the dead body of terrorist

organisations. Measures which can defeat the ideology of terrorism are more necessary than kinetic endeavours.



Multi-dimensional approach

Thirdly, terrorism is a multidimensional phenomenon and the fight against terrorism will have to be waged on multiple fronts. They conduct their activities on multiple grounds. They take shelter in the neighbour nations and launch attacks from their safe sanctuaries. Terrorists orchestrate attacks from the sanctuaries with much easiness. Due to this they concentrate their focus on and create much trouble in border regions. The government should have to take the neighbour countries into confidence in the fight against terrorism and also sign agreements and MOUs with the neighbour nations.

Modern technology

Additionally, terrorists use modern technology such as social media and encrypted communication channels for recruitment, communication and fundraising. This is one of the most adverse consequences of technology in the modern-day world. Government should have to tighten the screw on social media and communication apps in such a way that their inimical use gets restricted without violating the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution. The fight against terrorism is not easy and simple in this modern world. We will have to defeat it on several fronts.

Solution-based approach

Lastly, we use, unfortunately, a solution-based approach instead of a problem-based one in solving every problem in Pakistan. Terrorism is a deep-rooted phenomenon. The government should look into the problem deeply and dig out the causes which give space to extremist and terrorist forces to manifest their evil designs. This is not just the spillover effects of foreign terrorist activities, but our governance, social and education system is so weak and vulnerable which itself contributed to the rising of extremism and terrorism.

The misgovernance and corruption, the system of socialization which imparts extremist and terrorist values, and the monopolization of economic dividends by a small segment of society at the expense of majority welfare allow extremists and terrorist forces to challenge the state and cause disturbance. So the government should consider the problem-based approach to unhide the causes and understand the nature of terrorism and extremism, and take measures which will address the root causes of the problem. The solution-based approach has proved unsuccessful so far and the consequences of this approach have always compelled us to pay a huge price.

Conclusion:

The problem of terrorism is much more complex and our understanding of its nature is quite shallow. The measures carried out against the problem have revealed an underestimation of the phenomena. Its elimination needs response at all levels. The prudent strategy would be the one supported by the government, security forces and social stakeholders. The efforts that have had been waged by security forces are not enough to eliminate it.

