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STRATEGIC AND SECURITY CHALLENGES TO PAKISTAN 2001-2020

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the strategic and security challenges to Pakistan from 2001-20 and found the abundant shocking findings. Geo-strategic importance, as well as alarming economic situation, propelled Islamabad to coalition with any of the world's blocks i.e. Washington or Beijing/Moscow, from era to era that caused numerous internal and external strategic and security challenges for the country. The Pakistan's strategic issues with its neighboring countries, particularly with India and Afghanistan, further played the vital role in enhancing the political instability, economic destabilization, crimes and security issues in the country. The research is conducted under the qualitative and descriptive research methodology and seeks to build narrative explanations about the causes and consequences of the strategic and security challenges to Pakistan. To examine it meticulously, the primary and secondary sources have been consulted as well as the author is the eye-witness and also conducted numerous interviews of the students from most affected areas.

INTRODUCTION

The global have been parted into two major blocks, U.S. and China/Russia that pushed the international community to join one of them. Beside, Washington and Beijing/Moscow trying as well as asserting number of countries to stand with their stance. Geo-graphical and strategic location of any country playing a key role in enhancing the alliance with any block,

hence, Pakistan's strategic location edged Islamabad to develop its relations with anyone of them.

Pakistan is located at South Asia's key geo-graphical location, where India is at its East, Afghanistan-Iran in West, China in North and Arabian Sea at South. This strategic location particularly influenced Pakistan's relations with Delhi that always stayed bitter, Kabul and Tehran changed time-to-time, and Beijing with excellent relations. Whereas, since the partition of Pakistan, enthusiastically or deliberately, Islamabad never stand neutral, however, joined the U.S. or Russian/Chinese block, as well as Washington and Beijing/Moscow also never ignored Pakistan's geo-strategic location for their strategic purposes. Such alliances showed the numerous positive and negative consequences on the country. These magnitudes caused numerous internal and external security and strategic challenges for Pakistan.

External Security and Strategic Challenges to Pakistan

External security challenges are affecting the internal security of Pakistan directly or indirectly. Pakistan is facing the biggest issues from U.S., India, Iran, and Afghanistan. Eriksson and Rhinard (2009) explained that, Pakistan is sandwich between neighbors, enemies of neighbors and super powers (Eriksson & Rhinard, 2009).

Indian Issues

Since independence, Pakistan and India's relations are on bitter way and never have to stay vivid and many small and big wars and fights have been fought between them. It is madness of think peace in South Asia, until the relations between these countries improve (Hussain et al, 2019). Immediately after independence, Pakistan and India went to war over the issue of Kashmir. The armies of both countries face each other at the place of poonch and the fighting goes on to a dangerous extent. The UNO conspires to stop fighting and assure that you shut down the war and we will solve the problem. The war of 1965 was also fought over the Kashmir issue and this was the 2nd time that these two countries faced each other. After 21-day war, the issue could not be resolved. In 1962, there was a war between China and India in which China also invited Pakistan to join us and liberate Kashmir. At this time, UNO jumped in and assured that we would solve the problem. The war of 1971 was also fought between two countries, but it was fought on the issue of East Pakistan (Golechha, 2020). In 1999, the kargil war took place and in this war the Pakistani army entered in Kashmir to a large extent. Atal Bihari Vajpai calls to Nawaz Sharif to withdraw his army. Nawaz Sharif replies that I do not know that my army has reached Kargil. Apart from General Pervaiz Musharaf, there were three others who knew about this plan. Nawaz Sharif often called back the Pakistani army due to external pressure. After that a political war starts in Pakistan. General Pervaiz Musharaf blames Nawaz Sharif for making us leave when we could conquer it (Qadir, 2002).

Kashmir Dispute

The issue of Kashmir between these countries is important. There are two thoughts on Kashmir, one of Pakistan and other of India. Pakistan says that the Kashmir was a Muslim majority state and India occupied it. India said that they have bought the state of Kashmir from Raja Gulab Singh, who was the head of the state at that time but he was not so popular because he was a Hindu and the people of Kashmir were mostly Muslims. India occupies about 55 percent of Kashmir, which include Jammu and Kashmir and the Ladakh valley. Pakistan has 30 percent which include Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. China controls 15 percent of the area, which include Aksai Chin (Hernández, 2020). On 2 July 1972, Shimla Agreement was signed, through which the Line of Control was drawn up in the area of Kashmir that was occupied by both countries (Rahman, Muneer, & Khan, 2021). According to 370 article; no citizen of any nation or any country could come to Kashmir to buy his property. India tried to abrogate this article to removal of Muslims majority. On 5 August 2019, India submitted its bill to repeal this article. It is a dream of the BJP party that the entire state become a Hindu state and that is why they first attack on this article to fulfill their dream (Hussain, 2020). But the people of Kashmir protested strongly against it. According to article 370 Form no. 3, this article cannot be resolved until the assembly of Jammu and Kashmir itself gives its permission (Hussain, 2020).

Pulwama Attack

On February 5, 2019, the Pulwama attack takes place and Pakistan is also blamed for it. In this attack, 40 Indian soldiers were killed and the people and government of India reacted strongly to it. It was a game played by the Indian government that they attacked their own soldiers and used this slogan against Pakistan in election campaign (Gurung & Shaurya, 2019).

Cross-border Terrorism

Both countries also blamed each other of cross-border terrorism. Pakistan claims that India is interfering in Pakistan's internal affair and providing support to terrorists against Pakistani interests. Indian Intelligence is working to destroy peace in Waziristan, FATA and Baluchistan. India's spy Kalboshan Yadav was also arrested from Baluchistan region that entered in Pakistan with the help of Iran (Noor, 2007). India blamed on Pakistan of supporting the terrorist activities and interfering in its internal affairs. Mumbai attack was also blamed on Pakistan. In Mumbai, this attack took place from November 26 to November 29 and 9 attacks done by 10 terrorists belong to Taliban. India said that Pakistan is helping the Taliban to carry out suicide bombing in India. 175 people were killed and 300 people were injured in these blast (Roychowdhury, 2021). India has said that Pakistan is providing assistance to Kashmir Free Movement, that's why Kashmiris are not ready to meet with us (Pattanaik, 2002).

Water Dispute

The dispute over water has also been onboard since independence. After the end of British rule, India was given the right to use the water of river Beas, Ravi and Sutlej. Pakistan was given to use the water of river Chenab, Jhelum and Indus. Indus River flows from India to Pakistan. India refused to give water to Pakistan and stopped the flow of water (Shah, 2020). The population of both countries is increasing day by day and the agriculture land also need water, so due to the increasing needs of the two countries, this conflict is becoming more intense or hot (Abubakar, 2018).

Afghanistan Issues

The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan are not good since day one like India. The Afghan government does not recognize the border of Pakistan. In 1950, Afghan king Zaheer Shah gave a speech against Pakistan and proved that Afghani government will never accept Pakistan (Razvi, 1979). The ex-president of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani said that Pakistan does not want peace in Afghanistan and providing support to the Taliban. Imran Khan said in the International Conference in Uzbekistan that is completely hit by terrorist attacks wrong for Afghanistan to say that we do not want peace. Our country has been and about 70 thousand civilian have victim of this war. No country has tried as much as Pakistan to table talk with Taliban for peace in region (Dawn, 2021).

Soviet-Afghan War

The USA nurtured the Jihadis through Pakistan to break Soviet Union through soil of Afghanistan. The USA gives weapons, nuclear bombs and all other facilities to Jihadis for fighting against Soviet Union. America succeeded in its goal and Russia was divided into 15 pieces. After that, the USA withdrew its hand from the Jihadis and Pakistan. Then Pakistan started nurturing jihadists (Amina, 2017). However, Pakistan is still facing the Afghanistan's consequences.

Durand Line Conflict

The Durand line was drawn by British government, which Afghanistan still does not accept. When the British came to the sub-continent, they started conquering the further areas. Some areas of Afghanistan were conquered by British rule, but they were not able to conquer the whole of Afghanistan. The British government drew a line called the Durand line on 12 November 1883 to separate their conquered territories (Qassem & Durand, 2008). The Afghan government is claiming the territory of KPK. They say that this is a part of Afghanistan which has been forcibly occupied by Pakistan (Qassem & Durand, 2008). After the independence of Pakistan, elections were held in KPK to decide whether they want to stay with Pakistan or go with Afghanistan. About 2, 89,244 vote were cast in favor of Pakistan while against Pakistan is 2,874, while KPK was included in Pakistan. In this way, Pakistani government included the people of KPK in Pakistan according to their will

(Olaf, 2004). But Afghani government still refuses to accept this and said that how can it be that some people of the same region are staying here and some are staying on the other side and a border has been built between them (Burke & Lawrence, 1990). India began to see its sovereignty threatened by this project. India had also objected CPEC and its route which goes through Gilgit-Baltistan to Azad Kashmir (New Indian Express, 2015). As response, India signed the trilateral agreement along with Iran and Afghanistan.

Iran Issues

The relations between Pakistan and Iran were very good in the beginning. These two countries have a lot of similarities like culture, language and way of living. The most important thing is that these two countries belong to Aryan (Tahir, 1977). In 1980, when there was a war between Iran and Iraq, Pakistan was very anxious to support Iraq. But Pakistan supported Iran as much as it could. In 1990, Pak-India-Afghan gas pipeline project, which India withdrew in 2009. The gas pipeline reaches the Nawabshah which is later used by CPEC (Owais, 2018). Iran supports Pakistan in the war of 1965 by supplying arms when USA refused to supply weapons. In 1967, Iran was supported by Pakistan against Arabs. After the separation of East Pakistan in 1971, Pakistan become too much for its political economy, which is continuously supported by Iran. Iran was the 1st country to recognize the sovereignty of Pakistan (Owais, 2018). The relations of Pak-Iran deteriorated when Iran-USA relation deteriorated. Iran starts a nuclear programme, which makes the USA angry with Iran. USA tries to stop Iran, but Iran remains adamant that it will continue to nuclear programme. The USA began pressuring Pakistan to destabilize Iran through Balochistan to divert its attention from the programme (Ahmed, 2014). Pakistan's closeness with Saudi Arabia worsened Iran-Pakistan relations. In 1980, the Sunni Shia conflict begins. The territory of Pakistan is being used as a soil for proxy war in which Saudi Arabia is supporting Sunni jamat and Iran is supporting the Shia Party. The Shia jamaat says that we are being ignored at every point and government trying to bring Sunni jamat forward. In 2019, a bomb blast at Kharash and 27 people was killed and 13 injured. Iran blamed on Pakistan of carrying out the attack. Iran's foreign minister said that Pakistan's action will not be tolerated at all. Pakistani government invited Iran for investigation and said that if Pakistani is involved, severe punishment will be given (Choudhary, 1974).

U.S. Objections

Washington was watching its superpower at risk through CPEC project. America supported India, because America wanted to deteriorate the CPEC project through India. Apart from this, the USA blue navy is being protected by India (Abbas, 2019). Trump tweeted that we had given \$33 million to Pakistan for war against terrorism, which was not spent and the rest was kept by Pakistan. The response of Pakistani government was that we were given \$19 million and the rest was deposited in Security Support Fund. Pakistan's security assistance was terminated by USA (Aziz, 2018). Trump called Alice Well, director of trade center of South Asia and forced him to stop CPEC. Trump said that many blacklisted companies invested in this project. If

Pakistan does not take action against them, the result will be bad for Pakistan (The Express Tribune, 2019). To closeness with China, USA worked against the CPEC.

Internal Security and Strategic Challenges to Pakistan

During the different eras, Islamabad's alliances with the Washington as well as Beijing/Moscow showed the various internal consequences on the country. Hence, Pakistan is facing numerous internal challenges. Internal threats originate from the state or society and later these threats become a threat to the same society and state (Ahmad, Bakht, and Hassan, 2016). Pakistan is facing high level of threats like jihadi culture, terrorism, extremist, political instability, unemployment, poverty, inflation and water scarcity (NACTA, 2018)

Terrorist Activities

Terrorism is an act of creating fear in the hearts of other people. Pakistan is considered to be hotbed of terrorism but this is not true. The key wave of terrorism in Pakistan started since 2001. Pakistan military and other related institutions tried remove terrorist activities by conducting various operations that somehow achieved but still facing (Madiha, 2021).

Lal Masjid Operation

In 2007, the Lal Masjid operation was conducted in which Islamic extremists were being trained. This operation focuses on Lal Masjid and Jamia Hafsa madrassas during the government of Pervaiz Musharaf. These two Madrassas were run by two brothers Abdul Aziz and Abdul Rashid. They openly challenged the Pakistani government. The threat was broadcast on FM radio station on April 12, 2007 (Hoodbhoy, 2014). These people openly challenged the government and attack them by telling them. When these people attack on the minister of environment and the Chinese female health center, then the Pakistani government decides to carry out an operation against them from 3-11 July. After the Lal Masjid operation, the terrorist attacks increased (Saini, 2009).

APS Attack

On December 16, 2014, a terrorist attack took place on the Army Public School Peshawar. 149 people died in this attack, of which 132 were school children. The students were martyred in a very brutal manner, river of blood flowing throughout the school (Qureshi, Gulraiz, & Shahzad, 2016). All the people who came for this attack were holders of other country's nationality like two belong to Afghanistan and three belong to Arabs. The mobile phone was using by this group was registered on the name of a woman from Hasilpur. This proves that terrorist attacks in Pakistan are not caused by its own people but by other countries (Moghadam, 2009). The leaders of attack group Omar Khorasani was reported died in 2017. But in the list of terrorism

release by US department in 2018, they said that he is still alive. The 1st list was also published by the US in which they proved him dead (Ahmad, 2021).

Foreigners Targeted

In 2014, 3 foreigner engineers were killed in a bomb blast and these engineers is the target of attackers (Khan & Minhas, 2019). In Balochistan, there is a meeting of locals and foreigners in Sarena Restaurant but terrorist targeted it. The terrorists attack but the foreigners have already left the restaurant a short-ago. Thus, there was no loss of life of foreigners but 12 local people were killed (Grare, 2006). A woman do a suicide bomb near the university bus of Karachi University and three Chinese teachers are killed (BBC, 2022).

Reasons of Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan

Following are the key causes in emergence of terrorism in Pakistan.

Soviet-Afghan War

Soviet-Afghan war was based in emergence of terrorism in Pakistan. America-Pakistan itself trained the Jihadis, so, they could fight from America's side in this war. When America's goal was fulfilled, they pulled back to nurture them. Soviet Union and U.S. were fighting for the supremacy, hence, Washington dismember Moscow through Afghan Taliban (Imran, Hashmi, & Anwar, 2022). The same mujahedeen later converted to Taliban and then terrorists however Pakistan was blamed for nurturing the Taliban. They were definitely supported by Pakistan but America's hand in establishing their foundation. They are getting help not only from Pakistan but also from other countries China, Israel and Iran (Al Jazeera, 2021). In 2001, the Taliban were attacked for the terrorist activities, however, this time Pakistan and U.S. alliance against them, as revenger, terrorists started terrorism activities against Pakistan. In 2022, 97 Pakistani soldiers were martyred from January to March (Hajira, 2022).

Foreign Interference

Another cause of terrorism in Pakistan is the interference of other countries. Other countries are directly or indirectly interfering. When America wants to show enmity with any country, it uses Pakistan and then later accuses Pakistan of doing terrorism (Fair, 2007). RAW agency of India has also got claws in Pakistan. The Haqqani network, Sajid and Dostani network are also working in Pakistan and none of these networks belong to Pakistan (Siddiq, 2011).

Failing of Law-Enforcement Agencies

The Law-Enforcement Agencies failed in properly implementation of rule of the government. The culprits can get easily their targets because the law is not strong enough to punish them. First, the culprit is not caught; the law is not able to catch the accused in time. If the law detains the accused, they do not have enough evidence to go to court against culprit. Due to lack of evidence,

they can honorably acquitted from the courts. After that, the courage of the criminal increases that if he does or even does something wrong, what will anyone do to him. (Conser et al, 2011).

Crimes That Caused Strategic and Security Issues

Due to numerous internal and external security issues, many crimes emerged in the country and these are another major security and strategic challenges to Pakistan. Street crimes ratio is very high in Pakistan such as drug supply, robberies, prostitution, purse snatching and ATM fraud as well as Pakistani national's connections with the enemy's agents that became the causes of emergence of terrorisms in the country. Such activities are the major causes of security and strategic challenges for Pakistan.

Reasons of Crime

Poverty

Not being able to meet the basic needs of life is called poverty. According to the World Bank Report, 39.9% of people have a daily income of three dollars and are not even able to meet their basic needs (The World Bank, 2018). There are 22% of people whose monthly income is 13 dollars. It is so little that is difficult to even eat bread for one time with such earning (The World Bank, 2018). People are fed-up with their poverty and attract to crime to fulfill their needs in life.

Inflation

An increase in the price of goods of life is called inflation. Inflation in Pakistan increases not by years but by days. In other words, the value of money to buy anything decreases with the passage of time (Khan & Schimmelpfennig, 2006). It rose by 6.34%, if compare by May 2022. If compared with June 2021, then increase by 21% in June 2022. People pay attention to crime and crime professionals use the thinking of people for illegal work. In terms of inflation, Pakistan's rank 7th in the world, while it ranks 1st in Asia with 9.50% inflation rate (The World Bank, 2021).

Unemployment

If the youth have the ability to work and do not get employment is called unemployment. It is a major cause of crime. There are no employment opportunities and if employment opportunities are found, there a need of bribe and references. One of the reasons for not getting a job is the lack of education because how can one get job without education. If this continues, unemployment will increase by 6% in the coming future (Ani, 2022).

Corruption

Pakistan was ranked 124th out of 180 countries in term of corruption in 2020. In 2022, Pakistan is ranked 140 out of 180 countries (Transparency

International, 2018). Corruption in Pakistan is rampant, from the government to the Judiciary, police and even the education department. Corruption reigns in every corner of the country (Amin, 2022). In 2012, Tariq Ahmad, a citizen of Lahore Johar Town, filed a case against Fouzia Gillani that she had taken a loan from Agriculture Developmental Bank and National Bank of Pakistan and it was not returned. She was Yousaf Raza Gillani's daughter and she tried to take advantage of her relationship (The Express Tribune, 2012).

Ethnicity Issue

The major ethnic groups of Pakistan include Punjabi, Balochi, Pathan, Muhajir, Pahari and Saraiki (Choudary, 2021). Some people belong to Kashmiri, Chitrali, Kalash, siddis and kohistanis. There are 1.4 million Afghani citizens are live here. The trend of "Me" and "your" is on peak in Pakistan (Qadeer, 2006). West Pakistan and East Pakistan were separated due to language conflict. The people of East Pakistanis said that Bengali language should be made the official language, but preference given to Urdu (Jabeen, Chandio & Qasim, 2020).

Refugees

Pakistan is the second largest refugee hosting country in the world after Turkey. During the Soviet-Afgan war 1979-88, about 3.5 million Afghans settled in Pakistan (Imran & Xiaochuan, 2015). Later, again after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the U.S. began drown strike on Afghanistan, a lot of Afghan peoples entered into Pakistan (Kronenfeld, 2008). When Pakistan's military conducted a war against the terrorists in the country, as revenge, its own peoples as well as terrorists started retaliations against Pakistan. Apart from Pakistani people, Afghan people were also living in Pakistan (Emery & Hiram, 2021). Most of the refugees in Balochistan live in Peshawar because the lifestyle of the people here and the Afghan people are similar. The number of refugees in KPK is 53% and Balochistan has 24 percent, Punjab has 14 percent and Sindh has 5 percent (Kronenfeld, 2008).

Inter-Provisional Disharmony

Inter-Provisional harmony is very important for development of any country. But Pakistan has been a victim of disharmony since independence. Sometime, it is a problem of resources distribution and sometimes it is a problem of language. The separation of East Pakistan is the result of inter-provisional disharmony (Talbot, 2002).

Political Instability

Another key root of security problems in Pakistan is political instability. Since Pakistan became independent, almost half of the freedom has spent in Marsha law. The political instability has mostly started in 2013 when Nawaz Sharif came to power. Nawaz Sharif gets blasted in money laundering case and PTI starts street sit-ins (Hajira, 2022). One of the reasons for political instability is that the thinking of any political party in Pakistan does not match that of any

other political party. If a party wants to make it prominent, they go to Balochistan and Hazara because they know that Balochi have hatred against Punjab and other provinces in their hearts (Mullinix, 2017). Political parties are not concerned about people; they are concerned about their interests (Siddiqui, 2019). On the other side, religious political parties used the religious cards and other political parties have a different way of thinking. The contradiction in the thinking of religious political parties and democratic political parties is a big problem (Bakhrwar, 2021). On April 10, 2020, Imran Khan was removed from Prime Minister Chair by a no-vote confidence. This was not the first time in the history of Pakistan because no Prime Minister has been able to complete his term of government since the independence of Pakistan (Fizza, 2022). On April 3, 2022, Constitution was also affected as the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Qasim Suri did not allow the vote of no confidence movement to be cast and thus dismissed this movement (The News International, 2022). Imran Khan advised to President Arif Alvi to dissolve the National Assembly and he did it under Article No. 58 of the Constitution (Khan, 2022). Later, opposition knocked the door of Supreme Court of Pakistan then the government changed, the authority was transferred from PTI to PML-N. Islamic parties say that the solution to all the problems of Pakistan is to implement Sharia law. But these parties are also creating some Islamic extremist elements. These parties have not got a good number of seats in the National Assembly till date, but if we look at the problems, the parties creating problems are at the forefront (Kumar, 2001). Dr. Wolf of China said that if the political condition of Pakistan does not suffer from instability, corruption will also decrease and Pakistan will become a country that will never need any other country (Memon, Memon, Shaikh, & Memon, 2011).

CONCLUSION

Since the beginning of 21st century, South Asia is playing the key role in the world politics and global powers particularly United States and Russian/China are trying to influence over this region. Hence, the strategic and geo-graphical location of the Pakistan is very important on the South Asian map that attracts the world decision makers to stimulus over it. The emergence of the War on Terror (WOT) 2001 further strapped the Islamabad to stand with Washington and international community for the said purpose that showed the unforgettable consequences on the country. The strategic and geo-graphical issues of the Pakistan with its neighboring countries, Afghanistan and India, further played the key role in creating the issues in the country.

Subsequently, the India-Pakistan partition, strategically and geo-graphically, pushed both the states on the line of fire till to-date, particularly the Kashmir issue and water disputes, caused numerous wars and clashes between the states. These issues further mobilizing both the countries to interference in others state's internal and external issues that are creating a lot of challenges for Pakistan such as terrorism, targeted killing, politically instability, and economic issues.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Durand line and interference in internal issues also creating the many challenges for the Islamabad and the blame games of involvement of the each-theirs matters further enhancing the terrorism,

regional instability, cross-border firing, smuggling and other numerous challenges for Pakistan.

The Pakistan's alliance with the U.S. during the WOT 2001-2021 and CPEC further played the key role in creating the problems for the Pakistan, as the Pakistani nation never have to agree to joined the American war, but, government of the Pakistan did it. On the other side, CPEC was rejected by the U.S. and India; hence, such decisions caused the emergence of terrorism such as terrorist activities, suicide bombing, Lal Masjid operation, APS attack, foreigner's assassinations, targeted killing, and many more challenges for the Pakistan.

Such all activities setting the stages for the failure of the institutions to control over the country's situation and issues that caused the advent of the crimes in the country to destroy the economy, inflammation, poverty, unemployment, corruption, ethnicity issues, refugees issues, misunderstandings between the government and Pakistani nation, inter-provisional disharmony, political instability, and many more strategic and security challenges for the state.

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