

## Global War on Terrorism, Its Effects On Pakistan

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### Abstract

*Since the event of 9/11 the phenomenon of terrorism becomes scrapheap challenge to the world in general and Pakistan in particular trims. The event has brought about drastic implications on countries like Pakistan. Terrorism and extremism has engulfed every nook and corner of the world. So far Pakistan has lost sixty four thousand civilian, military personnel, and politicians and thousands others are wounded. Due to its status as front line state against war on terror Pakistan got seismic shift in its internal and external polices. The focus of this research is to critically analyze the political economic, strategic and social implication of U.S led war on terror on Pakistan. Stringent response of Pakistan towards increasing terrorism in the country has reduced the terror incidents. Analytical and descriptive approach has been adopted to cover major events of the war against terror.*

**Keywords:** Violence; Terrorism; Economic; Pakistan; Global Scenario

### 1. Introduction

The recent wave of terrorism is quite a different from the past. The world has now entered into fifth generation war fair and the current phenomenon of terrorism is part of it. Defining terrorism is becoming a gigantic challenge to the world because the terrorist of one group is freedom fighter of the other for examples the fighters of Palestine and Kashmir which are freedom fighters for Muslim countries; but are terrorists for Israel and India. In prevalent situation, terrorism is multiplex phenomenon with the consequences for every aspect of society. Over the years, it has become an open threat which has no geographical boundaries, religion or race. Terrorism appears to have intractable implications on the Muslim world. After 9/ 11 Muslim states like Iraq and Afghanistan were captured and environment was created to blame each Muslim appears to be a terrorist. After the cold war the terms terrorism and extremism were used by western states especially America to justify their

definition of terrorism. Through this manifestation America and its allies wanted to get their perfidious strategic and political advantages.

Pakistan suffered a lot due to War on Terror as ally of USA after 9/11. The US war against terror has affected the social and economic life of large number of world population. As per the Global terror index 2015, the global economic cost of terrorism is at the sky-high level since the start of war on terror i.e 2001. It is estimated that in 2014, the terrorism had a total economic impact of 105.8 billion USD with the global economic cost of terrorism reached around 52.9 billion USD, which is tenfold increase since 2000 (Global Terror index, 2015)

In the prevalent scenario terrorist organizations and the countries working behind them are active on many fronts. Terrorism is developing as new irregular warfare strategy of 21st century (Tacke, 2017). The drug mafia, terrorists, criminals, other elements of society and radical elements from all over the world are making nexus. The involvement of states to work out their regional or international agendas has further complex the challenges. (khan-2018). Till 20th Century the violence and terrorism acts were only considered and associated to physical acts such as bombing, killing, destruction of properties and kidnapping etc. But today; the biggest threat is of cyber terrorism to the world which targets the key government's offices, officials and business related activities. This cannot be as fatal as physical act, but its impact is much wider and can be more destructive in nature (Tacke, 2017). After the 9/11 the dynamics of terrorism has changed altogether. Pakistan joined the US ally in war against terror after 2001 and had to face immense pressure from the Islamists parties. The terrorism in Pakistan increased manifold during the period of Gen Pervaiz Musharaf. However, it's People, political leadership and army fight back the terrorism and were able to curtail it in true spirit after the sacrifice of more than 60,000 civilians and army men.

The sphere of countering terrorism and terrorist activities has increased manifold. According to Global Terror Index -2019 report, the deaths from the terrorism incidents are at the lowest since 2013. However, it is still a potent and major threat to world and humanity (GTI, 2019).

It is an important to understand that terrorism is not only a violent threat; but it is the new technique of undermining the democratic government. Through generating fear among the general public to distort public views, discredit their opponent, by polarization of society and its different tentacles. The latest example of the terror attack is of Taliban's at Afghanistan where, the turnout of Presidential elections during September 2019 remained the lowest since 2001 with 9.6 million registered voters' only 1.82 million votes were counted (BBC, 2019)

## **2. Research Methodology**

The descriptive and Analytical methodologies are used during the course of research. This is a qualitative research in nature. Thus the fact, ideas and historical references are investigated and analyzed from the secondary sources. For this research task, research articles and other secondary data as applied in this respect.

## **3. Definition of Terrorism and violence**

The obscurity over the definition of terrorism; even United Nations fails to give a viable and comprehensive definition of terrorism. This is the reason that every social scientist and state see it through its own lens of understanding and use it to their own benefit. More than hundred definitions are available as per the narrative of different states, politicians, organization and human right activists, however; endure is made to present a few definitions to understand the terrorism and acts of violence attached to it.

### **3.1 UNO Security Council Definition of Terrorism**

As per security council resolution Terrorism is defined as “criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a Government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act” (Security Council, 2004).

### **3.2 U.S Code of Federal Regulations Definition of Terrorism**

The U.S. Code of Federal Regulations defines terrorism as: "The unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives" (FBI Report, 2007).

### **3.3 U.S Department of Defense Definition of Terrorism**

The Department of Defense defines it as: "The unlawful use of violence or threat of violence to install fear and coerce governments or societies. Terrorism is often motivated by religious, political, or other ideological beliefs and committed in the pursuit of goals that are usually political" (Joint Staff Publication, 2014).

### **3.4 Definition of Terrorism as per Social Scientists**

As per Bruce Hoffman: "Terrorism is a pejorative term. It is a word with intrinsically negative connotations that is generally applied to one's enemies and opponents, or to those with whom one disagrees and would otherwise prefer to ignore. Hence, the decision to call someone or label some

organization 'terrorist' becomes almost unavoidably subjective, depending largely on whether one sympathizes with or opposes the person/group/cause concerned. If one identifies with the victim of the violence, for example, then the act is terrorism. If, however, one identifies with the perpetrator, the violent act is regarded in a more sympathetic, if not positive (or, at the worst, an ambivalent) light; and it is not terrorism" (Hoffman, 2006).

Carsten Bockstette (2008) underlines the tactical aspects and psychological of terrorism as: "Terrorism is defined as political violence in an asymmetrical conflict that is designed to induce terror and psychic fear (sometimes indiscriminate) through the violent victimization and destruction of non-combatant targets (sometimes iconic symbols). Such acts are meant to send a message from an illicit clandestine organization. The purpose of terrorism is to exploit the media in order to achieve maximum attainable publicity as an amplifying force multiplier in order to influence the targeted audience(s) in order to reach short- and midterm political goals and/or desired long-term end states" (Bockstette, 2008).

### **3.5 Definition of Terrorism as Pakistan Supreme Court**

The Pakistan has remained victim the terrorist activities and is still fighting against the terrorism and terrorist organization. The Supreme Court of Pakistan in a recent decision has given the definition of terrorism as: "The use or threat is made for the purpose of advancing a religious, sectarian or ethnic cause or intimidating and terrorizing the public, social sectors, media persons, business community or attacking the civilians, including damaging property by ransacking, looting, arson, or by any other means, government officials, installations, security forces or law enforcement agencies" (Supreme Court, 2019).

### **4. Causes of Terrorism and Extremism**

Terrorist undertake an impossible mission is to change the political balance through terrorist activity, therefore; it is a necessary to identify the root causes of violence and terrorism to address the evil. Terrorism is one basic cause which reduces the government stability (Gassebner et al., 2008). Tounder stand the causes, we must know the intended short-term goals of terrorism, that are; publicity and media attention, Political destabilizing and to damage economy (Tavares, 2004) along long term goals i.e the power sharing, wealth and control of sate (Frey & Luechinger, 2004). Keeping in view 'the goals in mind the cause of terrorism can be identified as economic deprivation, Socio-economic force, political disorder, demographic control, cultural clash, globalization and radicalization.

### **5. Gender Involvement and Terrorism**

Terrorism is a phenomenon which was classically associated to the male gender, but with the changing environment and situation: this classical phenomenon is fading. Today, many females are associated to the terrorist organizations in some shapes. However, the use of female in direct terrorist activities is increasing day by day. In 2013, only 4 female suicides were recorded but, it has increased to 22 in 2018. The maximum female suicide attacks in last five years were by the Booko Haram in Africa. In span of last 4 years (2014-2018); this group by 146 female suicide attacks killed more than 900 people (GTI-2019). Excluding Booko Haram group since 2013, female suicide attacks have been increased by 200 percent. As per the Global Terror Index (GTI) 2019, almost 13 percent foreign recruits of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) are consisting of female from Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Asia Pacific is leading with the highest female proportion joining ISIL with around 31 percent and Europe is on second with 24 percent (GTI-2019).

## **6. Terrorist Financing**

Money / Financing is the life line of a Terrorist Organization to perform the terrorist activity. Today, in curtailing the terrorism from spread and to take it to the logical end, the biggest hurdle is the cutting of financial lifeline of any terrorism related organizations. It is the harsh reality that without able to stop the financing of terrorists organizations at macro and micro levels, terrorism cannot be defeated. It is the important that as per the UN, any assistance or any means used to collect funds by any means, either way direct or indirect, in part or in full, lawfully/willfully or unlawfully for any terrorist activity is by all means implies on terrorist Financing (UN, 1999). As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, any financial help or support in any shape to any act of terrorism or for the sympathizers, planners, executioner or who engage or encourage in terrorism comes under the term of Terrorist Financing (Schott, 2006). According to Financial Action Task Force (FATF) report, terrorists utilize the funds on Operation, Propaganda and Recruitment, Training, Payment of Salaries and also on Welfare Packages and social welfare to legitimize their existence and support base for political goals (FATF, 2015).

## **7. Economic Impact of Terrorism**

Calculation of exact economic impact of terrorism on world economy is not possible as it do not involve only direct economy. Social complications and other indirect means are always involved with the act of terrorism, which indirectly creates impact on the global economy. The economic impact in 2018 as per the GTI-2019 remained around 33 billion dollars, which is 38 percent less than 2017 (GTI, 2019). Terrorism as compared to other form of violence such as military action is a small percentage to the overall impact of

all-out price of violence which remained 14.1 trillion dollars in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) during 2018 (GTI, 2019). This is the impact of direct terrorism acts which do not cover the indirect loss of business and foreign investment because of hostile security situation and expenditure occur on law enforcement agencies to counter the terrorists and terrorism.

## **8. Factors of Terrorism**

Keeping in view the above discussion in mind; it is very important to discuss and probe the factors behind the terrorism and terrorist Organizations. As Per a Fact sheet published by Education Scotland (Scotland.org), there can be numerous causes behind the act of terrorism and terrorist's organization as per the researchers, however; the major causes are discussed as the below:-

### **8.1 Political and Social Injustice**

Political and Injustice is one of the main reasons of terrorism. Many terrorists adopt the path of terrorism basically to tackle the political or social injustice as per their perceptions. Such the organizations and attached terrorists believe that they have been neglected or deprived from something they were entitled like land, possessions or some special rights.

### **8.2 Religious Beliefs**

As per historic facts and history religion and religious beliefs have been the motivating cause for violence and terror attacks irrespective of any one religion. It's very much important to state that not a single religion itself cause or provide argument for terrorism. Terrorists often use the name of religion either to punish the sinners /ungodly persons and behaviors or as a revenge for attacks on their beliefs. One such case was Paris terror attacks of November 2015 in which around 130 people were murdered (CNN, 2015). It is the important to note and clarify that religious terrorism is not always between two religions but, it can be between the two or different sects of the same religions as we can see the Catholic against Protestant and Sunni against Shia or even Sunni against Sunni like Barelvi against Devbandi and so forth.

### **8.3 Ideological Beliefs**

Some groups use the ideological belief for terrorism and further; the cause of an ideology they believe in. In this case, Political or religious ideologies are not required and not included. In fact; it's the other ideologies. Animal rights activists, Eco terrorists and racist groups have all used violence in the recent past as directed at individuals and property in the name of their ideological beliefs and such cases are on rise in modern world.

## **8.4 Socio-Economic Factors**

Deprivation from social or economic boom has its connection with the terrorism in view of the researchers. Poverty, lack of education combined with lack of political freedom is directly linked with the terrorism. This is the biggest driver towards the terrorism acts. It is the important to note that maximum recruitment of terrorist's organization is from the areas with such the deprived conditions. Research has shown that deprivation (poverty, lack of education, lack of political freedom) can drive people to terrorism. It is the important to draw the connection between these factors and recruitment of terrorists by the terrorist's organizations.

## **9. Internal and External Factors of Terrorism**

It is an important to understand the factors of terrorism that can be broadly categorized as internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are the factors where a country experienced them as catalyst for the terrorist's acts like poverty, corruption and ethnic strife, lack of law enforcement, separatism, unemployment and illiteracy (Sajid, Heredero, Munir & Sumaira, 2015). External factors are the involvement of foreign hands for achieving their own hegemonic power and agenda which was seen during the cold war era during Vietnam War and Afghanistan for last 4 decades (Najibullah, 2017).

## **10. Radicalization and Terrorism**

Academically, there is no single /universal definition available for the term "Radicalization"; therefore, it is a difficult to stick with one accepted definition of radicalization. Not a single definition can be presented here. One of the problems while defining radicalization is the importance of the context to determine what is perceived as radicalization (Schmid, 2013). Therefore, radicalization can have the various meanings to various social scholars. However; for understanding, It may be defined as a "process which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly radical political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or contemporary ideas and expressions of the nation" (Randy, 2011). Radicalization may be violent and nonviolent, although mostly social scientists refer radicalization to the violent actions of individuals or group. It is important to note that the radical elements are mostly inter linked with act of terrorism and areas of armed conflict, which is one of the reason of terrorism acts in conflicts zone. Conflict zones are the main target areas of terrorism today, as we can see the considerable reduction in terrorism where the conflict reduced because of any reason for example the number of terrors attacks Middle East declined subsequently with the decline of ISIL. Overall world has shown reduction in terrorist attack by 53 percent since 2014, in which terrorist

activities were on peak (GIT, 2019). This reduction is because of overall reduction in intensity of conflict and radical elements as a whole.

## **11. U.S war against Terrorism**

The U.S post-cold war era ended with the attack on world trade center on September 11, 2001. From 2001, the U.S has taken a leading role to counter the terrorism threat all over the world. This started with launching “Operation Enduring Freedom” on 7<sup>th</sup> October against Taliban government, which ended on 9 December 2001. This was the time when Bush administration made the war on terror as central principal of U.S foreign and defense policy. The U.S made international coalition to fight against the terrorism (Daalder and Lindsay, 2001). Iraq was the second country where U.S started its campaign against terrorism followed by Syrian operation and covert operation at Yemen. The America has paid \$6.4 trillion on costs related to and caused by post-9/11 wars and conflicts according to Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs at Brown University and the war on terror is still in process (Knutson, 2019).

## **12. Impacts of terrorism on Pakistan**

Terrorism roots can be traced back to 1979, in Pakistan when the Afghanistan was invaded by the soviet troops. (Nation, 2016) Terrorism in Pakistan started when the soviet troops left the Afghanistan. The U.S also left the Afghanistan to mujahedeen who were trained by Pakistan Army with the assistance of CIA and U.S government technical and monetary support along Saudi Arabia and war lords. This followed the civil war in Afghanistan and followed by Taliban government followed by the 9/11 incident. The current wave of terrorism is believed to be started at 2000, and was at peaked in 2009, with the mortality of 11094 persons including civilians and security forces personnel as per report of South Asian Terrorism Portal Index (SATAP) (SATAP, 2019). Pakistan has fought this war against terrorism for almost two decades with the total loss of \$126.79 billion due to war on terror since 2001, to its economy (Dawn, 2018) with more than 65000 people killed (Nation, 2018). Today, Pakistan is standing on firm footings against the terrorism and curtailed the terrorist activities almost 89 percent against the 2009, because of effective military operation, willingness of Government to remain stick to National Action Plan (NAP) formulated in December 2014 ,after the Army Public School incident. The brave and peace loving people of Pakistan remain committed with the armed forces and Pakistan government against the terrorists and terrorist’s organizations which were backed by international and regional players. Summary of the fatalities in Pakistan (SATAP, 2019) is given in Figure 2.

The Afghan war with the revival of Jihad during 80’s and later on the U.S war against terror at Afghanistan left its deep impact on the politics and



society of Pakistan in shape of extremism, increased radicalization and anti-sentiments again U.S and West World .However, Pakistani government has taken concrete steps towards right direction by introducing change in jihadi syllabus at educational institution and also working on madrasah reforms to reduce the effects of radicalization and terrorism and the change is very much visible in Figure 1 and Pakistan is today the leading country of world who have controlled the terrorism and showed remarkable increase in achieving peace.

### **12.1 Role of Pakistan Army in Combating Terrorism**

The role of Pakistan armed forces against the terrorism remain vital and Army conduct several operations against the terrorists and Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) mainly Operation al Miazan (2002-2006), Operation Rah E Haq and Rah E Rasth (2007-2009) The Army started its exclusive offensive operation “Operation Rah E Nijath (Path to Salvation) against the Mullah Fazlullah group (commonly known as Mullah Radio) and Tahreek e Taliban on June 19,2009. (Dawn, 2009). Later on, Operation Zareb E Azabwas Launched in North Waziristan against all the militant fiction without the difference of good or bad Taliban on June 15 ,2014 which came to end on 22 Feb 2017. General Qamar Jawed Bajwa, Chief Of Army Staff started Operation Radul Fassad (Elimination of Strife) on February 22, 2017, which has no geographical limitation and basically consists of Intelligence Base Operations (IBOs) against the hideouts and sleeping cells of militants in the whole country (Kagan, 2017). Pakistan Army has given too many sacrifices to control the terrorist’s activities in the country and also region. It’s the time for Political Government to consolidate the gains of military operations and speed up the rehabilitation process in the areas of war on terror and focus on the people of that areas so that the radical and terrorist organizations cannot get any kind of a strong hold in that areas.

### **13. Recommendations**

Terrorism is the biggest threat for the today’s world with no exception. However; world should take the steps to counter it and make it effective pace minimize. Here are a few recommendations which may help in reducing the terrorism and its effects.

- a. UN must take actions to ensure the protection sovereignty of all the member countries.
- b. UN should ensure the following of its manifesto in true spirit by all the countries including the leading powers.
- c. It is an important to respect all the religions. The freedom of expression must be defined by the UN and EU in proper manner to stop the insulting remarks and actions which provoke the feelings of other religion followers

- d. All the countries especially third world countries should work together for elimination of poverty and corruption.
- e. UN with the help of its members should work for the elimination of ethnic discrimination and other such issues.
- f. Reconciliation and social healing programs must be introduced in its true spirit in war torn countries of Africa, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan with maximum participation of the locals.
- g. Steps should be taken to resolve the outstanding issues of Palestine, Kashmir along Yamen present on the UN agenda.
- h. Steps should be taken by the world religious heads and important figures for the inter faith harmony.
- i. Pakistan must counter the view of India blaming of Pakistan as cross border terrorism. On the contrary India , Israel and Russia are doing state terrorism
- j. National Action Plane must continue till the end of last terrorist in Pakistan

## 14. Conclusion

Terrorism and terrorist organizations have become the global challenge for law enforcement agencies internationally and the despite numerous counter actions and strategies continue to thrive. The super power and economically sound countries should and must help out the smaller states to fight against the causes of the terrorism and violence. Many factors contributing to terrorism are directly linked it to the political extremism and to the hegemony diagram of the super powers. Its impact can directly be seen on the social, ethnic and religious aspects of common man. It makes the common man a pressure tool against the governments and led the countries to political and economic disorder and destabilization through which the terrorists achieve their aims. Pakistan has fought the war against terrorism effectively and today, it has regained world confidence as a peace loving and peaceful country, however; it's necessary to solve the Afghanistan issue effetely for the regional peace as the ISIS Khurasan chapter is the new potent threat to regional countries in particular and world in common which is one of the top four terrorist organization as per the Global terror index 2019 report.

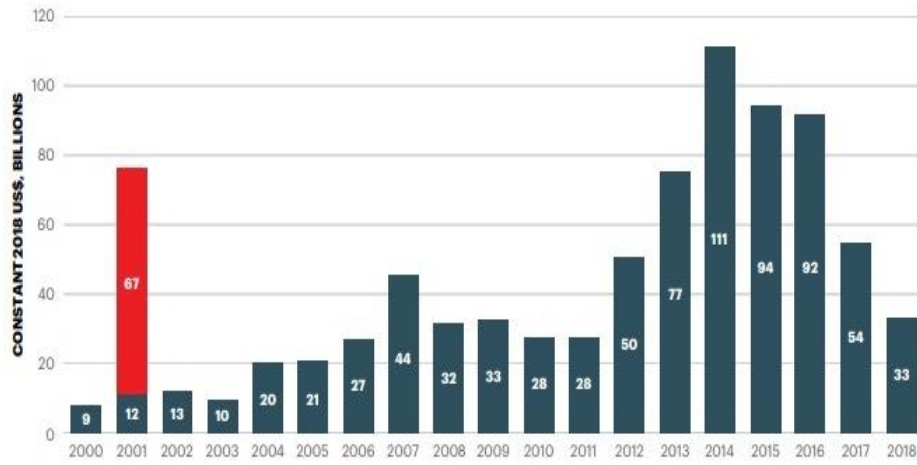


Figure 1: The economic impact of terrorism, US\$ billions, 2000–2018 (source: GTI-2019)

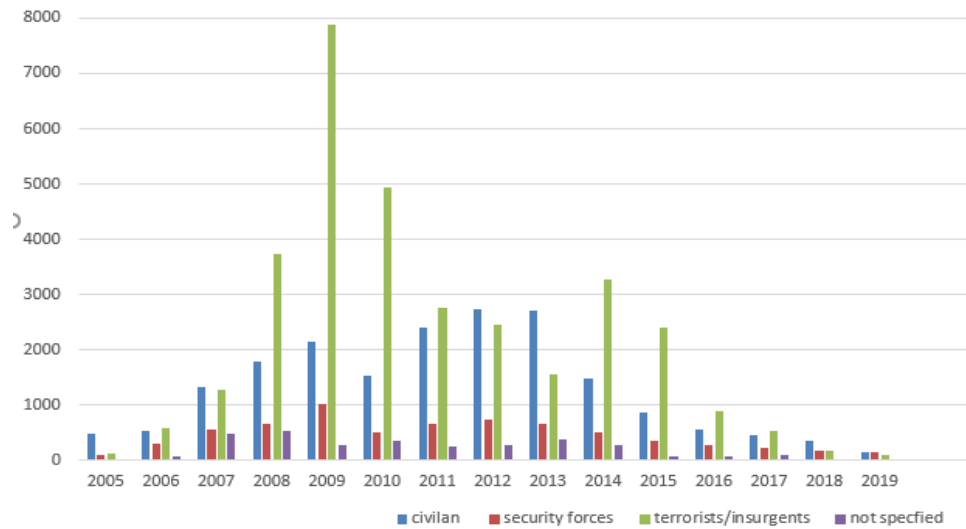


Figure 2. Fatalities from December 31, 2005 till December 5, 2019 (Source: SATAP-2019)

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