



History and Evolution of Insurgency in Balochistan (1948 to 2018)

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Abstract: This research paper focuses on the patterns of insurgency in Balochistan from 1948 to 2018. The study analyzes the historical background of Balochistan, including its annexation to Pakistan, and examines the five phases of insurgency in the province. The research also explores the factors that have contributed to the emergence and sustenance of the Baloch nationalist movement, including economic exploitation, political marginalization, and ethnic discrimination. The study employs a qualitative research approach, using secondary sources and expert interviews to provide an in-depth analysis of the insurgency in Balochistan. The findings of the study highlight the complex nature of the conflict and suggest possible solutions to address the grievances of the Baloch people and bring lasting peace to the region.

Introduction

Balochistan is Pakistan's biggest province. Balochistan's total area is 347,190 square Km, covering 43.6 percent of Pakistan's total area. Geographically, Balochistan may be divided into 4 major divisions of lower highlands, plains and deserts. Back in the Stone Age, Balochistan has an eventful history. Balochistan is the largest but the still most backward province as compared to other provinces of Pakistan. Balochistan has been neglected for the past 6 decades. No basic facilities of education and also poor infrastructure. The clash between the Baloch people and the government of Pakistani is still ongoing. 5 major conflicts in the history of Balochistan, strongly destroyed and damaged the province badly. The people of Balochistan extremely need an economic lifeline. It is said that 70% of Balochs live in poverty. And about 1.8 million children are not attending schools. It is also stated that more than 5000 schools are not properly, but just a single room. Health-related admirations are

in very bad conditions. The yearly death rate of Pakistani is 278 per 100,000, but it its 785 out of 10,0000 in Balochistan. And 15% of the Balochistan population suffer from Hepatitis B and C, and water shortage is also a main problem. Balochistan is Pakistan's biggest province with 44% of its territory. In fact, this province is shared more than one third of natural gas in the form of energy with another province in the country, it has a huge amount of natural resources such as gas, coal, gold, oil, aluminum, and silver, etc (Beg, 2019).

Balochistan is also great in geostrategic by providing a gateway to the Indian Ocean's warm water. It shares boundaries with Iran and Afghanistan. It connects the South Asian region to Central Asia through Gwadar. Infect Gwadar geostrategic significance and economic corridor with China further symbolizes its value in the region. It also lines and sets the front line of the ongoing war on terror the region. It is a distinctive place for ethnic groups dominated by

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Balochi and Pashtoons while it has also been home to settler Baloch's living since Pakistan's freedom. Since the independence, the Pakistani Army has initiated 5 military operations. During Nawab Muhammad Akbar Khan Bugatti's last insurgency the Province saw a new wave of revolts. The insurgency is organized rebellion subversion or the use of violence to challenge the government's decision to seize the region's political control. As mentioned, both political and insurgent parties have been struggling to control the province economically and politically via the use of armed conflicts, however, one party does not follow this insurgency, and some other parties are intertwined with various interests. Since the time of independence, the Federation and the insurgent Balochi have had the worst relations. In 1948 the government started its first military operation against the Khan of Kalat for creating barriers against the merging with the confederation. In 1958, a second Military Coup took place against Nawab Nawroz Khan who pulled up an armed confrontation against the "ONE UNIT". The State had joined 4 West Pakistan provinces into one-unit, while eastern Pakistan has also been declared one province, which was inadmissible for Nawroz Khan and his devotees who drove them into the guerrilla war against the state. The third military operation in 1963 was carried out to build military bases in the troubled areas of the province. Sher Mohammed Murri, took the law in his hand and began the guerrilla rebellion to challenge the government writ in the province. When Mr. Bhutto overthrew the elected government in Balochistan, the fourth armed conflict broke. Nawab Khair Baksh Merri formed Balochistan People's Liberation Front to fight the guerrilla war against the federal government. In the fifth military operation in the province Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti was killed. With the actions of the Baloch nationalists, the confederation was once again upset. The main concern is that these military operations against the nationalist tribal leaders turned their struggles into violent, separatist campaigns (Tanner, 2019).

In addition, to these revolts the tradition of the Paxton and Baloch tribal tribes since the time the British had both bottled these uprisings by twisted tribal rulers has undoubtedly had severe effects on the living tribes of the province. The last insurgency and military action has fueled up the

fire resulting in the worst circumstances in the province. The general public and tribal leaders have always complained about the exploitation of resources. The province is under developed than the others and the people of Balochistan are feeling deprived. That caused the situation today as well. Poverty, Low rate The insurgency in the province is caused by the absence of awareness of unemployment terrorism and activism. In the uprising insurgency in the province, the external factor cannot be ignored. Because it shares Afghanistan's borders, Islamabad is not an enemy, but actually a bad neighbor. The province provides an edge for the war on terrorism, but the province is made vulnerable by its geographical importance. India is able to settle down and support the insurgent regime in Afghanistan by assisting the separatists in Baloch. The anarchic situation is in Afghanistan. India has supported anti-Pakistan and has destabilized Pakistan's internal peace. The center of the new game Balochistan began with us after 9/11. The insurgency in this province is rapidly transforming into sectarian violence the armed conflict. Target murder and separatism. The situation in East Pakistani expressing external involvement is similar to that of the country. In addition to India and Afghanistan, US participation in the province cannot be ignored, as it facilitates India's participation and has made Afghanistan an important position (KC, 2020).

Iran is neighboring Balochistan and sharing a state border. Tehran is also facilitating sectarian violence to cause distress in the province as its port of Chahbahar and Strait of Hormuz feels Gwadar is a major threat to its economy. As far as the relevance of the study is concerned it must be noted that undoubtedly a vast literature is available online on the Balochistan issue and there are multiple dimensions through which the issue has been addressed. But, considering the current situation occurs a literature gap, which is going to be covered in this study. Including topics like the current situation in Balochistan between the state and the public to maintain peace within the region, but still unable to find a solution to the Balochistan issue.

Social Mobilization theory by Karl Deutsch described on his theory how societies go into conflict and then how they recover. How People can play a role on the stability of the region. Balochistan is under threat Baloch is facing many

problems some people are aggressive who revolt on this situation some are silent, on this theory now we can understand how the people of Baloch can play a role in this situation and work on their interests.

History of Balochistan

Balochistan is big. It's the only province in north and eastern Sindh with borders between KPK and Punjab. It also shares Iran's borders. Afghanistan and the southern Arab Sea. The 5% share of Balochistan's population is close to 8.5 million. Pathans are the second largest ethnic group in it with 35% of people, while the ethnic Baloch, including Brahvi, accounts for 55% or 6.8 million. Due to that Baloch, nearly 27% live abroad. The unrest in Balochistan was split into two parts when Pakistan came into being. British Balochistan, including other areas of Baloch, including Pathan living areas and the princely state of Karat.

In the province, Makran, Khan have been included. Although the province of Gwadar did not take it from Oman and became part of the province at the time of its establishment. In 1958, by giving the payment, Khan of Kalat had given Gwadar suzerainty to Moscat, Tainur Sultan. In 1958, he made himself part of Pakistan. Balochistan province itself in 1971 was recognized as a province, and one unit system in western Pakistan was removed. The province of Balochistan is home to a variety of ethnic castes, mainly Brahui, Baluch and Pashtoon (Khan, [2009](#)).

Post-1947

From the date on which Balochistan has been merged with Pakistan. Problems and crises have inspired ongoing conflicts for the people of the province because of economic crises, ethical problems and regional autonomy. The people have a better understanding of the situation and are aware of the political situation. This situation, however, increased the rebellions and resulted in the bleeding of a provincial revolt, which threatened the development of the entire country, and the population of the province. Since the province became independent and merged with Pakistan, the province was disrupted by 5 insurgents. Official estimations indicate the death of more than 5,000 separatists in all these movements, and more than 3,000 in Pakistani

military deaths. After Nawab Mohammed Akbar Khan Bugti, the final insurgency raised its head. The threat to peace and prosperity in Pakistan was a serious potential threat. And it provided an internationally negative image of the state (Nadeem, 2017).

In the province, this situation created a vacuum filled by foreign agencies that fostered internal peace. The separate movements were fueled by the international involvement and support of the separatists. Furthermore, the current government has taken significant measures on behalf of the military establishment to address the problem. Inhabitants' complaints and complaints. Their sentiment has halved since the installation of the nationalist government but can be raised again because the matter can still be addressed urgently. According to Baloch tribal leaders, the state has not been ready to solve the problems. Indeed, separatist nationalist's leaders are ready for peace talks but need a guarantee of army foundation. To improve the root cause of the provinces, confidence-building measures are needed.

Five Phases of Insurgency in Balochistan

When Khan of Kalat signed the instrument of accession, it caused a revolt led by his brother Prince Abdul Karim in July 1948. Prince thought of fighting a battle against Pakistan, and for this purpose he took refuge in Afghanistan. But in 1950 he decided to surrender to Pakistan and quit this unconventional war. He was alone in his battle because the rest of Balochistan did not support him in it. Until the dissolution of the province in 1955 he was allowed to retain his title by Jinnah and his followers. From 1958 to 1959 one-unit policy was made according to which the representation of tribal leaders was decreased. Nawab Nauroz Khan resisted this policy and fought with arms against the government. He and his companions began a guerrilla war against Pakistan. After the first two conflicts, against one unit concept of political setup in Pakistan passed in the constitution of 1956, they arose a separatist movement started in 1960. Sher Muhammad Bijrani was one of the leaders of militants into the Guerrilla war from 1963 to 1969 and created their bases spread over 72,000 km of land. The tension created by previous conflicts stayed even in 1970 and the government announced a military

operation in Balochistan in 1973. In this year, PM Bhutto dismissed the provisional government of Balochistan. This caused conflict between the government and Marri and Mangal tribes. In 2004 on Gwadar port an attack was done by insurgent which caused the death of three Chinese engineers and four were injured. In 2005, a 15-point agenda was given by Nawab Akbar Khan Bugatti and Mir Balch Marri and demanded provinces resources and a moratorium on military bases construction. In 2006 Nawab Akbar Khan Bugatti in the age of 79 years was killed by the Pakistan army in a fight in which 60 Pakistani soldiers and 7 officers were also murdered. It was compensated by a rocket attack on President Pervez Musharraf. In August 2009, a Khan of Kalat announced Balochistan as a separate independent region and also said he is the leader of Pakistani Balochistan not of Afghani Balochistan.

Baloch Mobilization

Due to Bugti's killings, Balochistan's military activities have confused national strict trends. After losing trust in the political system and power division, Balochi hate Punjabi and the military.

Baloch nationalism grew. The national movement became stronger after each defeat. The amount of agitators—a devout extremist and partisan groups—infesting Balochistan throughout the last decades, and especially today, demonstrates a very dangerous scenario that necessitates the federal government to take significant and drastic steps. Pakistani politics must include Balochs. This is worrisome for Pakistan's integration. In recent years, Balochistani governments have accepted the deteriorating conditions but practically failed to lessen complaints (Grare, [2022](#)). The state must act to calm Balochistan's national unrest. If spiritually implemented, the People's Party government's Balochistan package is comprehensive and beneficial. Musharraf's prior Balochistan package was good but never fully implemented. Confidence-building methods with broad participation should reduce Balochis' skepticism of the federal authority. It's hazardous to ignore the province's discontent. Violence-prone folks are used to objective killing and ethnic issues. Several people, including professional professors, left the area for Punjab and other states. This condition hurts education and law enforcement in the

province. Provincial crises also hampered provincial and federal doctoral authorities.

Religious fanaticism is another important issue for this province. Jihad against Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the 1980s started this major issue. Jihadism targeted many Balochistan Pushtuns, promoting militarism and fanaticism. Due to Balochistan's proximity to Afghanistan and Iran, the Taliban entered Afghanistan in numbers much exceeding their population (Garore, 2023). During the 1979 Iranian revolution, Balochistan's Sunni population reacted strongly to the province's strategic location. Religious seminars have severe legal and regulatory effects on the province as 30% of religious institutions expanded during Musharraf's administration. Deobandi seminaries dominate the province's sectarianism research. Pashto and Baloch dominate Balochistan's heterogeneous cluster. Nonetheless, the tribal system gives those ethnic systems great authority over their region. Tribal chiefs and cast fight, hindering province growth. Autonomous provincial rulers are tribal or feudal Sardars. Personal interests have hampered provincial progress. The local tribal Sardars, who have ruled their tribes for years, cannot tolerate any government action that could bring prosperity to the region and empower the population, eroding their authority. The province is protesting after security agents attacked Bugti at its refuge. Balochistan's people are furious at Musharraf, who executed Nawab. Another Baloch complaint against the federal administration and military exacerbated this situation. His assassination made him a martyr for nationalism, not only in Balochistan. Balochistan's political leaders condemned his murder (Muzaffar, [2018](#)).

Nawab Akbar Bugti now sympathizes with the Balochistan masses and hates everyone, causing a major crisis. Bugti's death caused state-public disputes. Islamabad's army border centre should be removed. Ex-President Musharraf plans a new military takeover. For demographic and provincial issues, it was unacceptable. Dera, Kohlu, and Gwadar, built these cantons. Pakistan's largest province, Balochistan, is resource-rich but underdeveloped. Central and provincial administrations tried but failed. President General Perwaiz Musharraf's government has also mediated conflicts and provided poverty-reduction programmes to the province. Nonetheless,

General Musharaf's time is remembered both positively and negatively. Previous President Musharaf used a carrot-and-stick policy to keep the Army in Balochistan and started building shared sentiments. The 18th constitutional amendment and the Aghaz-e-Haqoq-e-Balochistan package are most of the initiatives done to improve state-Baloch ties. The government's first priority now is addressing Baloch's trust deficits. The package covers political, constitutional, economic, administrative, and most importantly, monitoring. "This package is based principally on the evacuation of military force from Sui and Kohlu, cantonal halt in the regions, and substitution of the army by F.C. The death inquiry into Nawab Akbar Bugti and the killing of other Balochistan leaders including Lala Munir and Ghulam Muhammad, as well as the continuous murdering of the province in the current target (Muzaffar, 2018).

It also addresses the Rs 120 billion Royal problem from 1954 that would be paid over 12 years and upgrades today's NFC award calculation. Lawyers would help the Balochistan government liberate missing persons, including criminals. Disappeared people would be found in 7 days. The Gwadar Development Authority's Board of Governors and President will be appointed by seven province members under the Chief Minister's supervision. The programme also promises 5,000 new Balochistani government, semi-government, and other jobs. A merit-based free economic zone will be created in Gwadar. Most local contractors appreciate Gwadar's growth. The gas development surcharge requires a national gas price. Local tribes in Kohlu District would be prioritized for gas extraction. The government would spend a billion rupees to resettle Dera Bugti IDPs. However, this package, which bought the province hope, had no immediate effect on the impacted. The majority of important Sardars, Nawabs, and Tribal leaders opposed the package, notwithstanding the government's favourable decision. Sadly, this bundle that bought beam trust in the territory has not helped conflict-stricken residents. However, most powerful Sardars, Nawabs, and inborn pioneers rejected this bundle for the region. Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Pashtonkhawa Milli Awami Party's common priest, described the area's turmoil and added that the eighteen Amendment received

recently was meant to strengthen government-Balochistan relations (Saleem, 2019).

"Had a comparable activity been taking a lot before, a showdown between the national government and the territory may have been maintained a strategic distance from," he adds. Some claim the sacred bundle is too little to be offered past the point of no return. If the government doesn't help the area, the nation will fall apart again. Cantonments, Sui, and Kohlu have stopped developing. Mansoor Alam Khan's legal commission handles missing people. But, the most significant and real achievement from this bundle has been the established revision and temporary self-rule. The parliament passed the eighteenth amendment, which eliminated the simultaneous rundown and gave the area more self-governance (Nabeel, 2017).

Baloch Nationalism

Baloch nationalism is a movement that claims the Baloch people, (an ethnolinguistic group mainly found in Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan) are a distinct nation.

The nationalist movement proliferates the view that Muslims are not a one-time (the opposite of the concept behind the creation of Pakistan) and that ethnic loyalty must surpass religious loyalty, though this view has always been challenging. The Baloch nationalist movement's demands have ranged from greater cultural, economic, and political rights, to political autonomy, to outright secession and the creation of an independent state of Balochistan. The movement is secular and heavily influenced by leftist Marxist ideology, like its counterparts in other parts of Pakistan. The nationalist developments exist in Balochistan and spread to every one of the elements with respect to governmental issues and different viewpoints. Politically, the demand on provisional autonomy and political self-sufficiency under the constitution of 1973. Despite the fact that there is a contrast of sentiments in perspectives and requests of nationalists and other ideological groups yet without a doubt every one of them feels a feeling of hardship. The articulation "Baloch Nationalism" is misconnecting in Pakistan yet sociologically it alludes to an advancement procedure in Balochistan (Nabeel, 2017).

Baloch Nationalist Parties

There are many actors in the Balochistan confrontation, but some are as follows:

BLA -Baloch Liberation Army

BLA is against of Pakistan and they do anti-state activities, Under the leadership of Balach Mari, BLA is dominated by the Balochistan Mari tribe. After Balach Mari was killed in 2007, Hyrbyar Mari, his brother, led the party to satisfy Balochistan's demand. This party struggles continually against the state and has about 3,000 tribal fighting fighters (Saleem, [2019](#)).

BRP (Baloch Republican Party)

Bramdgah Bugtti (Akbar Bugtti's grandson) who lives in Switzerland also considers it to be an unknown party. After his grandfather's death, he fought violently against the state. In addition, BRP is fighting for greater Balochistan and it has become an armed conflict from the political battle. He is also attempting to transmit his message outside the country and calling on the United Nations to intervene and stop the Baloch tribe genocide (Saleem, [2019](#)).

BNM (Baloch National Movement)

Another party that follows violent battles to increase Balochistan is the BNM organization. In the Musharraf era, armed forces overthrew in the Province and transformed its political fight into an armed fight. It's also a political party. It was driven by Ghulam Muhammad Baloch, a leading figure in Baloch uniting against the state. He was murdered in 2009 and the army was accused of a shocking death and even of his death the UN was responsible for condemning it. He was killed in 2009. Moreover, some other nationalist political parties have also been involved in combating law enforcement forces, but are now included in our constitution (Tanner, [2019](#)).

National Party of Balochistan

Abdul Malik Baloch's National Party was moderated, a nationalist Balochi party claiming a representing the mediocre. They play a part in the election system but did not play a role in the elections of 2008, and unknown assailants have assassinated several of its leaders.

BNP (Balochistan National Party)

BNP created by Akhtar Mengal is a major nationalist party that, before 2002, was the governor of the province and boycotted polls in 2008. He generated revenue from provincial resources in Balochistan, but until recently only required wide independence for the province and only the defense, foreign affairs and currency of the Federal Government. The authorities killed members and now the party is calling for a self-determination referendum.

Insurgency in Balochistan

Patriotic nationalists from Baloch have abolished Islamic politics because they are rightly seen to be part of the major issue of isolating the general public and dictating to the policies of General Zia ul Haq. The cancelation of Islamic or Sunni policies in the province, while not an Islamic political process, was a challenge in the government's writings and in its authority (Gattani, [2021](#)). In the province, Islamic doctrine attempted to create its soft image. But radicalization, fundamentalism, and sectarianism smiled by Deobandi Madrassas, which have seriously affected the state and the entire region, prevailed in the anarchical condition of the province. Now the situation in the province is going harsh because many people were killed in the name of secularism. Under Musharraf and with the MMA government a strong Taliban presence has developed in Balochistan. Also, the province is growing into a secular conflict nexus. It has reportedly established presences in the province of the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban, Al-Qaeda, Sipah, Mahomet, Sipah and Sahaba, Lashkar, and Janghvi. Their presence is not safe for us, partially due to a vast network of Deobandi Madrassah and partly to the federal state's policies of Islamization since 1970. Likewise, the Afghani refugees are the main problem in the region, they were an important source for Taliban recruitment by some studies (Foreign Policy News, [2015](#)). Secular groups in Balochistan continue to multiply, fragment, and work dramatically. Pakistan's Sipah and Sahaba have a wide base of support. Although the government has prohibited it twice, they provide land for the terrorist operatives of Lashkar e Jhangvi (LJ). There appear to be two different outfits working in the group, the Kurdish Usman

Group and the Hayi Qari Group. Some of the facts on the dead Jaish e Mohammed have apparently created an operational relationship with the LJ, while a large number are said to have joined the group of Harakat Mujahedeen and Harakat jihad and Islamic militants (Muzaffar, [2018](#)).

Negligence of the Government

The inefficiency and negligence of the federal government strengthen long-term turmoil in the province. The central administration has never set the people of the province's proper interests. Haste and deprivation in the province have resulted in the government's undemocratic and apolitical behavior. In the province, separatist movements were also brought about. Moreover, it created a vacuum for foreign agencies to interfere. Governments have tried to create a strong and beneficial environment and tried to ensure a fundamental human right of development. and their peculiarities. In the Past democratic government has also demonstrated an obstacle to the political resolution of grievances, instead, military rule almost always has a military solution over political ones. General Musharraf's behavior was a line draw in it and paved the way for the insurgency, saying, "They won't know what was going on." It was General Musharraf's aggressive behavior that paved the way for the insurgency, saying, "They won't know what was going on." the Army take over the system and show zero tolerance, with the possibility of Tribal Leadership and Confidence in the Army Suppression, including government diplomacy, psychological warfare (Gattani, [2021](#)).

Role of Tribes

The provincial Sardar of ' Mir Chakar Khan Rind ' in the 15th century became the first King of Balochistan. However, Mughal Empire India and Afghanistan-based empires influenced the province. The province has retained the dominance of Nadir Shah of Iran and Ahmed or Afghanistan. But then, the Pashtoon and Baloch tribes influenced all these regions.

In the 11th to 15th centuries, it is worth noting that the evolutionary era of the cast Baloch

was taken into consideration. The history of the Baloch ethnic tribe was likewise transmitted through a fundamental social change. "At least by acquiring outside the resources of the tribe, as well as by taking the form of expropriations of labor as commodities of the members of the tribe itself, the leaders began gradually to accumulate, as a result of a class conflict, a primitive type of capital," Ejaz Ahmad said (Samad, [2014](#)).

Conclusion

The current conflict in Balochistan is alarming towards a dangerous situation as we have already many issues there.

To solve those issues, we need to understand the whole problematic history of the Baloch people, either they are disagreeing with the government, peace issues or colonial interferences Also, we need to understand why the state is failing in developing the Balochistan Their rivalries with

Potions are also a big conflict Balochs are damn nationalist they don't bother stating powers and advocating their own demands to the state in the flow of these conflicts, it is a difficult task to address them about present conflict.

Several factors are making the Balochistan conflict unique, i.e., natural gas revenues, the Gawadar issue, and the renewal influx of Afghan refugees are making the current conflict more complex.

Unfortunately, the state's harsh response towards the current insurgency made the conflict spiral which is making reconciliation less. Likely The military will keep up its strategy of concentrating on headstrong Baloch pioneers, while a couple of nationalists will continue to use violence as a method for extorting concessions from the administration government. The state will try to orchestrate with those it sees as immediate in a mastermind to buy as much harmony as possible. Regardless, the major issue of authentic improvement help is doubtful to be tended to. In that capacity, unpredictable assaults against the state and non-Baloch inborn bundles will continue for years to come.

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