

Manzoor Khan Afridi * Rubina Ali †

Instability in Afghanistan and its Impact on the Security of Pakistan

Abstract

Security implausibility due to a long history of conflict and the poor governance made a major contribution to making Afghanistan one of the unstable countries in the world, which poses a potential security risk for their surroundings. Instability in Afghanistan has a great impact on the security of Pakistan. Afghanistan's ability to overcome its security problems has a significant impact not only on the security and development of Pakistan but also the entire region. Furthermore, this paper will provide an overview of the importance, suggestions, and security policy of Pakistan. The Obama administration's strategy in Pakistan, particularly in FATA, in which US drone strikes occurred, has generated insecurity in Pakistan. Therefore, the Imran Khan Government severely opposes the drone strikes and calls it a violation of the sovereignty and honor of the country. Finally, the paper highlights insecurity and instability in Afghanistan has serious regional implications. Consequently, a stable Afghanistan is more likely to make a contribution to regional security and serve as an economic partner.

Key Words: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Obama, FATA, South Asia

Introduction

In Afghanistan, due to the war on terror landscape of almost all the nearby countries, especially Pakistan, has changed a lot. The prime victim of the war on terrorism is Pakistan due to various reasons (Michael, 2007). This war has also changed the mutual relationship as well as regional security and political scenario prominently in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Taliban regime has an enormous impact on political and regional security. This regime has transformed international approaches toward Pakistan and the South Asia region (Akhtar, 2008). Pakistan's tribal areas have been continuously facing a fire of agitation since 9/11 due to the interference of the US in Afghanistan. Suicide bombings and killings have been increased all over Pakistan.

In the entire history of Pakistan, tribal areas persisted reliably and peacefully in the state of Pakistan as compared to the other regions. But, after the existence and interference of the US in Afghanistan, rebellions by the Taliban, a step forwarding of army operations affected the peace and stability of FATA (Baloch, 2016). The traditional tribal system efficiently run by Tribal Jirgas and Pukhtunwali has been disrupted due to unnecessary military actions. There is full evidence of rebels because of the involvement of foreign hands, and as far as the case of troubled Balochistan is concerned, it came into calamity after the interference of the US in Pakistan's internal affairs.

Drone attacks are very effective in the killing of one or two terrorists but will also create many more suicide bombers (Johnston & Sarbahi, 2016). As a result of these drone attacks, the security problems of Pakistan are exceedingly increasing. The occurrence of violent extremism is one of the main challenges upsetting Pakistan's security. In this context, the drivers of violent terrorism, extremism, and radicalism are disrupting Pakistan's social fabric after the post 9/11 era. In September 2001, Osama bin Laden was the main reason behind the US attack on Afghanistan. The world's most wanted and mastermind of 9/11 attacks, Osama bin Laden had been killed in May 2011 in northwestern Pakistan after US operations. The US president Barak Obama got satisfied and announced that "justice has been done" (McMahan, 2012).

The US exit strategy of pack-up just after the Cold War in 1992 without completely eradicating terrorism in the region was the reason of terrorism in Pakistan. Mujahedeen's were converted into the Taliban later, and they created terror. According to Mulla Nasir's statement, death of Osama does not end terrorism, and still, Taliban have full spirits (Soherwordi & Hussain, 2012). Pakistan faced the

* Associate Professor, Department of Politics & IR, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan.

Email: manzoor.afridi@iiu.edu.pk

† PhD Scholar, Department of Politics & IR, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan.

social, economic, and political imbalances during the last three decades due to Afghan issues. For achieve a peaceful environment, Pakistan is always trying to be positive despite having clashes with Afghanistan. Pakistan has played a major role in the war on terror without any hesitation.

Pakistan's security forces are combating vigorously against the Taliban in the tribal belt. President Obama played down the troop reduction policy. Afghanistan is facing a hazardous situation, and hence instead of concerning and fearing in a rash manner about the increasing level of violence, wisdom is needed. An extended strategy is required to overcome all these issues. Afghanistan peace becomes the source of relief for all neighboring countries. The basic purpose of the withdrawal of the US forces and action on end game resulted in the vanishing of international terrorism in the region. Success can be achieved when policymakers focus mainly on each and every part of the issue, including FATA and Pakistan.

The effects of the war in Afghanistan are marked in the regional environment, where growing political violence and numerous suicide attacks have challenged the government's ability to maintain security, specifically in Pakistan. Afghanistan and its ability to overcome its own security and other problems have a significant impact not only on the security of Pakistan but also have an enormous impact on the entire region. In this regard, the Afghanistan calamity intensely and directly threatened Pakistan's security. Though Pakistan has become successful in bringing the change through controlling and decreasing the suicide attacks as compared to past Pakistan's security environment has rapidly worsened in the recent past because of Pakistan's failure to prevent militants and Taliban infiltration, which becomes a reason for worsening the security of the country.

Security Interests

The Pakistani military considers that the Taliban can be controlled through deterrence and that its main task is to prepare to contain India's enlargement in the country. The main concern is that Afghanistan ought to force no risk to Pakistan. The Pak Afghan relations have confronted many moves. Pakistan has a vibrant front in the East, it desires a quiet and secured western with Afghanistan. But the West and East war of dread resembles an awful dream circumstance that outcomes in tremendous interest. Pakistan was fundamentally and straightforwardly influenced by the Soviet assault in Afghanistan.

The intrusion enlisted numerous wrecking components into Pakistan's vital condition. Afghanistan was never an issue for Pakistan since Pakistan's military quality was sufficient to adapt to Afghanistan's terror issues. Yet, the passage of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan made many appalling and aggravating components. Pakistan confronted numerous security dangers; an interior risk, an Indian danger, and the risk from Afghanistan. So Pakistan had left merely one alternative of supporting the development of resistance. General Zia chose in 1979 to begin the guerilla war alongside the Soviet armed forces. Pakistan and its knowledge office Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), in collusion with the United States and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) favored General Zia's choice. Then again, Pakistan chose to improve its military capacity and atomic power with the assistance of the US.

Meanwhile, at that time of Soviet removal, the different Mujahedeen pioneers began the Civil war. Pakistan has not acknowledged the common war of the Afghans. It was gigantic security and practical danger for Pakistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan had the extensive weight of Afghan displaced people. These displaced people made a significant issue for Pakistan.

Amid the common war, Iran and India attempted to make their compelling demonstration in Afghanistan. Consequently, in 1994, Pakistan gave the backing to the Taliban against such turmoil. During 1998 Taliban made a legislature in Kabul with the assistance of Pakistani armed forces. The picture of Pakistan on a universal level was obliterated because of the Taliban strategies and Taliban Al Qaida connection. Pakistan-Taliban relations advance religious fanatic gatherings to reconstruct their network in the Pakistani region (NWFP). In 2001, after the US assault and India's involvement in Afghanistan, Pakistan joined an alliance initiative in the war against fear-based oppression. Pakistan is supposing an essential part as psychological warfare and bleeding edge state during the war.

The US intrusion in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks impelled a convergence of al-Qaida and Taliban aggressors into the FATA that would in the end, result in the combination of fanatic control in the area. Open backing for the Taliban runs high in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP). So,

religious components attempted to authorize their plan in the society of Pakistan as well as tested the constitution of Pakistan. From the late spring of 2007 to late 2008, almost 1,500 individuals were slaughtered in suicide and different assaults on regular folks. Pakistan confronts an assortment of security dangers; an Indian danger, a religious fanatic risk, and the danger from Afghanistan. Pakistan, second time ends up in a three-front danger situation that no other South Asian state has experienced.

Restoration of Afghanistan is a critical step to success against various security hazards. Pakistan's geo key interests need the foundation of peace. Pakistan ought to take after a system to reduce the grindings, while averting intrusions in Afghan issues. Pakistan should make hard and fast, bold acts to defeat the exercises of suspicious Al-Qaeda individuals and the Taliban leftovers from the place where there is Pakistan. The Afghan government must be constantly adulated because of the negative executions of the developing Indian nearness in Afghanistan. In the meantime, Pakistan must extrapolate its political objectives to other regions by opening extra conference programs. From the military perspective, Pakistan should adjust and better its rocket and atomic program.

Strategy to Combating Terrorism after 9/11

The terrible incident of 9/11 has malformed international politics massively. Tackling terrorism and militancy threats have formed a new political spirit in the starting of the 21st Century. Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, the Bush administration started the war in Afghanistan and the US to spread its policies, ordered attacks against al Qaeda. Bush said, "Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us or with the terrorists" (Rabbi, 2014).

The United States then decided War on Terror, arguing that terrorism was a common enemy to all civilized nations during this war. Within a few days, Pakistan has become a frontline war state (Woodward, 2002). Furthermore, a universal campaign provoked against terrorism, and terrorist expansions were connected to Al-Qaida group. Though, a war against worldwide terrorism that "will not end until each terrorist bunch of worldwide range need been found, stopped, and defeated" (Andréani, 2004). In such a scenario, Pakistan has changed its Afghan policy of supporting the Taliban (Malik, 2008).

US Strategy under President Bush

The Bush Government pushed the "Global War on Terror" (GWOT) as a consequence of the 9/11 attacks. Leffler's view that "the WOT was to focus on the global terrorist threat and not just specifically on al-Qaeda" (Muscat, 2013). President Bush also clearly announced that America will not spare any terrorist or its harbor. The Americans focused was on the military plan after taking the world into confidence. Bush stated that "The leadership of al Qaeda has great influence in Afghanistan and supports the Taliban regime in controlling most of that country" (Chang & Mehan, 2006). Bush called to the US Congress, people of America, and to arms for acting against Osama Bin Laden and the Taliban Government. In the first Phase, Americans demanded Osama Bin Laden from the Taliban Government but Mullah Omer refused. ISI-headed delegation from Pakistan General Faiz Gilani was sent to Kandahar to convince Mullah Omer to hand over Bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda associates; however, Mullah Omer refused and required convincing substantiation of Bin Laden's involvement (McGivering, 2009).

Simultaneously, the Taliban administration and Mullah Omer called for Jihad against America and her allies. As a response, the American administration decided to promote a name, namely "Enduring Freedom," with the objective to arrest Osama Bin Laden to swap the Taliban administration and deteriorate the Al-Qaeda group (Grare, 2002). The military campaign's first explosion was continued for a long time as remnants of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban in various parts of the country were targeted. President Bush administration indicated flagging the way for friendly troops on the ground gradually but strictly tightening the Justice. While US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld had suggested that Afghanistan was not a target-rich environment and reduced the significance of airpower. He also said this type of war "like none other our nation has faced" (Freedman, 2001). Similarly, as Populzai tribal leader, accompanying as much father assassination for July 1999 toward Quetta, Pakistan, thrived previously, entering the Qandahar on 9th Dec. Thus the period about Taliban might have been still the issue for Al-Qaeda, which instigated those clashes also whose components were apart to vanish.

The streamline of fighting shifted to Tora Bora, which is an underground network of caves near the Pakistan border in Nangarhar Province where Osama Bin Laden was thought to be hiding, but he with his people vanished from that place. The US believed that "Osama is hiding somewhere else inside Pakistan, but Pakistan constantly denied the blame of presence of Osama inside Pakistan, till on May 2nd 2011 his killing at the hands of allied forces in Abbottabad".

US Strategy under President Obama

When Obama took charge, Afghanistan was experiencing a devastating situation involving largely of suicide bomb attacks, drug mafia, huge rising criminal movement, and Taliban were almost 40 percent south, and east Afghanistan was under the control of Taliban. The US was losing the war, and therefore, they developed a long-term policy. Bush previously ordered around 15,000 soldiers, and recurrently Obama called an additional 21,000 of them. President Obama delivered the speech "the Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan" (Obama, 2009). The President gave his remarks that he wanted to talk to people about their government effort in Afghanistan, their nature of commitment completion, and their fields of interests and administration perused interests.

In this statement, the President directly emphasizes the ideologies of Weinberger-Powell doctrine and the Realism Theory. As a realist, the President supposed that national interests are a critical issue and realized, as Secretaries Powell and Weinberger had recognized in their doctrines, that US forces must be dedicated to protecting the national interest and that it is necessary to secure them before the commencement of the battle.

He emphasized on the Realism Theory principles that one's national interests when he stated that he was convinced about the tough security issues in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and if he was not concerned about the security and safety issues of the people, he would then happily withdraw all troops from Afghanistan. Inside this important speech, the President reassured the United States determination and strategy was the development of improved professionalism and resources in Afghanistan, and very soon, he doubled the ranks of the Afghan military for the next two years.

This would also contain helping to train the Afghan security services. In July 2011, these troops went back home, but their commitment to Afghanistan was prolonged by the end of 2014 for achieving the overarching goals of Afghanistan-Pakistan policy. The President reassured the USA objective by recalling that the danger in Afghanistan was in the nation's essential interests and "why America and our allies were forced to fight a war in Afghanistan in the first place" and that al-Qaeda also hit at our economic and military centers. He then persuaded how the United Nations Security Council "embellished the use of all required steps to respond to the 9/11 attacks," how Congress allowed the use of force against the Taliban and al Qaeda. President Obama's speech is the capstone occasion for the United States strategy, objectives, and policy for Afghanistan. Moreover, this speech nests the Afghanistan theater strategy inside the United States overarching Af-Pak strategy and links America's strategy, objectives, and policy for Pakistan and Afghanistan.

US-Pak Mutual Interaction for Countering Terrorism

In October 1999, General Pervaiz Musharraf became chief executive after a ruthless coup. Pakistan was facing deep security challenges and diplomatic pressure from the military coup at that time. Pakistan was also facing economic difficulties and in the west threatened Afghanistan due to Taliban control. Afghanistan Pakistan selected to shape friendly ties with the Taliban because both countries needed peace. However, Pakistan concluded the rising threat of extremists and hostile actions to decrease extremism and overcome terrorism inside its borders. Pakistan's efforts to overthrow terrorism were strengthened after 9/11. Pakistan needs to accept a number of challenging operations in the area through the post-9/11 period, providing serious support to the United States and its allies in Afghanistan. Moreover, major support has been provided by Pakistan for the US-led antiterrorism coalition. Rendering to the US Departments of State and Defense, unprecedented levels of cooperation have been provided by Pakistan to United States by allowing the US military entrée to areas inside the country, assisting in the recognition and confinement of extremists, aiding to seal the border among Afghanistan and Pakistan and cutting off terrorist financial aid.

Not just need Pakistan lose that's only "the tip of the iceberg" faculty in this war over whatever available ally, vast amounts of incredible military resources move through Pakistan. Without this logistical network, both those operations continuing flexibility also NATO operations for Afghanistan might have a chance to be extremely compelled. Over the most recent seven months, Pakistani military forces propelled 510 minor and 209 major operations over ten locales.

Subsequently, the GWOT start, both Pakistan and the United States bring sought after operations reliable for their exceptional political imperatives. Pakistan faced troublesome tests extending starting with general population backing as their disappointment for their Country administration.

At first, those legislature about Pakistan took measured also planned approach clinched alongside combating terrorism for an intense affectability of the delicacy for general population help to US-Pak participation in the war on terrorism. Concerning illustration an adversary, this may be particularly huge in the FATA the place the culture, social norms, chronicled administration, theory enforcement, Furthermore political, tribal impacts would dramatically not the same as the individuals about whatever remains of the nation. Indeed Pakistani standard military constraints will make acknowledged pariahs. Winning the hearts of the FATA people and furthermore, their collaboration is not just a goal, it may be a basic. Viable operations essentially might not make finished without the backing of the masses and doubtlessly not whether they actively contradict the individual's operations.

Thus, the Pakistan legislature and the military needed to take nuanced and also long haul methodology with operations against the expanding number of Taliban. Furthermore, al Qaeda can't assist themselves; they force an abusive, more fierce creed and get their most exceedingly bad enemies. Correspondingly, those Taliban, furthermore al Qaeda, have estranged major portions of the masses. Furthermore, Pakistan needed to secure those necessary nearby backing for those Government military mediation.

Pakistan Friendly Strategy

Due to its security issues, Pakistan has acquired mutually trustworthy and cordial relations with Afghanistan. Pakistan has always tried to follow a strategy of patience and restraint towards Afghanistan. Pakistan has provided full facilities to Afghanistan for delivering goods on railways. Pakistan has developed smooth relations and avoided any discomfort with Afghanistan. However, Afghanistan rulers have a hostile attitude and consider the prosperity of Pakistan as a threat to their government. Due to these reasons, Pakistan has only one option of just strengthening its own security. International presence, particularly the United States, has provided space to India to access Afghanistan, which has surely damaged Pakistan's interests.

Pakistan's policy is reactionary with regard to Afghanistan's unfriendly policy towards Pakistan. Pakistan and Afghanistan have developed relations since the period of Pakistan's independence. Afghan refugees have significantly developed bilateral relations with Pakistan after the Afghan-Soviet war (1979). The UNHCR report also described that "Afghan refugees in Pakistan are not a homogeneous group. They fled to Pakistan in several waves in the wake of the Soviet invasion of their country in 1979. They came from different parts of Afghanistan and have various ethnic backgrounds. The last refugee wave - nearly 300,000 Afghans - reached Pakistan after the attacks of 11 September" ([Ahmed & Bhatnagar, 2007](#)).

Pakistan's U-Turn in Its Afghan Strategy

The 9/11 attacks on the United States transformed the world politics, which also put Pakistan in a difficulty that either it favours the US in its war or either it supports Osama Bin Laden. Pakistan took U-turn in its Afghan policy and cooperated with the United States for countering terrorism. Musharrarf's decision to support the USA after the 9/11 attack gave a dangerous rotation to Pakistan's security policy, and even the policy had been changed toward Afghanistan ([Fayyaz, 2012](#)). Even, United States officials admit that "Pakistan has provided more support, captured more terrorists, and committed more troops than any other nation in the GCTF (Global Counterterrorism Force)" ([Fair, 2004](#)).

Suicide Bombing Attacks in Pakistan

Pakistan had suffered and continuously paid a heavy price for its cooperation with Afghanistan. The security position along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border remains fragile. After the 9/11 attacks, NATO and US forces started ground attacks in Afghanistan. The existence of foreign troops in Pakistan was extensively condemned inside the country, such as it was supposed to be a risk to the state's security. Afghan immigrants shifted to Pakistan, and many immigrants were unemployed, uneducated and several became the part as have involvement in foreign spy agencies of India like RAW, CIA, and MOSSAD. The center of terrorism has moved to Pakistan as in "September 20, 2008 suicide attack occurred on Marriott Hotel in which at least 54 people killed and at least 266 got injured" ([Salman, 2008](#)).

Regional Stability

The 9/11 events compelled the global world to view terrorism as a collective challenge and depict that poor governance, insufficient human development, lowly human security, militancy, and deprived economic conditions are the leading source of regional and global insecurity. In the South Asia region, Pakistan and Afghanistan are facing similar nature of peace and security challenges. The security challenges among Afghanistan and Pakistan are interlinked and can not be resolved independently. Stability relies on willingly involvement of all countries of the region like India, Iran and even Russia, and China has a significant role for sustaining peace in the region. Hence, regional stability is closely related to the stable relations of neighboring countries. Particularly, creating more trust among Afghanistan and regional countries generally with Pakistan is of great importance for sustaining regional stability and security.

Taliban as a Security Threat for Pakistan

There were neither Taliban nor any essential system of al-Qaeda in the FATA or anyplace else in Pakistan before the starting of OEF. Three years after the intrusion of Afghanistan, suicide assaults in Pakistan just started in 2005. After US choice to attack Afghanistan, Pakistan stressed that the war would bring about driving the Taliban and al-Qaeda to the FATA, which would then include Pakistan into equivocalness. The majority of this has since happened in 2007, Pakistan was incapacitated by the home developed fear arrange, TTP. Those TTP may have been organized toward pioneers about a bit 40 attacker gatherings, always on facilitating particular plans. The TTP may have at first made a beeline for Baitullah Mehsud beginning with the Waziristan office until his death in 2009.

The TTP has joined with al-Qaeda and the Afghan Taliban, and additionally with Punjab based Jihadi outfits like Jaish-e-Muhammad. This fatal system works from the FATA and NWFP, which venture into territory Pakistan. The TTP is principally occupied with fighting the Pakistan armed forces and the state because of Pakistan's support of the US in Afghanistan. The goals of the TTP were to: uphold Sharia; join against NATO compels in Afghanistan and perform cautious Jihad against the Pakistan armed force; respond unequivocally if military operations proceed in Swat and the FATA; guarantee request abolishment of every single military checkpoint in the FATA; and secure the arrival of Lal Masjid (Red Mosque) Imam Abdul Aziz.

The TTP began the fight to the Pakistani terrain and is causative operator for the vast majority of the current psychological oppressor action there, including the capital murder of previous Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the Marriott Hotel bombings, and in the November 2009 assaults on the General Headquarters (GHQ) of the Pakistan Army. Its assaults expanded after the Pakistan Army went into the TNSM fortress in Swat in April 2009 and afterward SWA in October 2009, which is the place the TTP was headquartered, performed preparing, and prepared suicide planes. The expanded seriousness of fear assaults and amid the armed force's military operations against Swat psychological oppressors and the FATA demonstrates the TTP's technique of confronting military operations against it. The definitive brutality in Pakistan uncovers Pakistan's powerlessness and the gigantic languishing over its organization with the US Alternate parts of the TTP's system are practically like those of the Afghan Taliban. The TTP's psychological warfare generally focuses on the Pakistani state security mechanical assembly (military, insight organizations, FC NWFP, and Police) in operational and

additionally settled zones, and professional government pioneers in the NWFP and the FATA. In no less than one way, the Afghan Taliban is unique in relation to its TTP partner; the Afghan Taliban has changed their ways and knows about the estimation of open support.

The Pakistani Taliban, then again, are not in any way stressed over open support and are executing regular citizens and security constraints alike. The Afghan Taliban have a "simply" reason for their development against remote occupation; interestingly, the Pakistani Taliban have no such reason. Nor do they take any support in Pakistan given their demonstrations of fear mongering, and their non-customary and nearsighted religious convictions. Along these lines, watchers in Pakistan trust that the TTP has just a single motivation, which is directed and started from outside: to break Pakistan and discourage it's open through inept demonstrations of psychological warfare.

Pakistan got stucked into the Afghanistan conflict due to geographical location. The United States also remained disturbed in the region and safe havens in Pakistan's tribal areas FATA present the extreme problem to the long term security and stability in the region. The US government has greatest concern about the problems that Pakistan has facing such as fighting terrorism, preventing proliferation of terrorist networks, opposing extremism and US government is also greatly helping in building feasible democratic institutions particularly in FATA ([Javaid & Jathol, 2015](#)). Consequently, conquest needs removal of the insurgent from Pakistani tribal areas for achieving long-term security and stability in the region. Moreover, Pakistan's main tension has always been India in the region. Pakistan also frightened an Indian misconduct in Kashmir if it did not accept the US strategy. Pakistan thus consciously and actively forwarded the removal of terrorists but inside the country further worsen the security challenges.

Conclusion

Most researchers now considered that Afghanistan's security largely accounts for its relations with its neighbors, most importantly Pakistan. The need to develop and initiate a new Af-Pak strategy revealed that the earlier US strategy does not possess a clear orientation, consequently providing space for the Taliban to reassemble them. The US compulsory provides all the help which Pakistan needs to upgrade and enhance itself without fearing or getting pressurized from India. To achieve this, the US, Pakistan, and Afghanistan need to work, more collectively than ever before to uplift and recombine their differences in order to find a meaningful solution to this terror and bloody war. This can happen only in a trustworthy environment.

Recommendation

The US-Pakistan cooperation and trust can be achieved by transforming the trust deficit into trustworthiness. The United States must involve positivity in sustaining confidence in Pakistan's judgments. Lack of trust is the reason for differences in strategic and operational approaches due to open dialog among the diplomats and militaries. Accusations, discouragement will only assist to weaken the strategy, end public turbulence, and destabilize the joint trust. Greater cooperation, collaboration, shared intelligence, and the endowment of US high-technology drones to Pakistan for war against terrorism can be achieved with open trust. Both the US-Pakistan should take speedy and sustained actions to increase military-to-military collaboration, also be required to prevent the coordination gap in their dual struggles to contain terrorism in the region.

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