

## **Pakistan's internal security & long-term stability**

Looking into Pakistan's history you will notice it has been plagued with various insurgencies and levels of destabilisation which have severely stunted its growth, and prevented a conducive environment for investment & development from fostering in many areas.

There are two main threats which pose a significant risk to Pakistan's national security and territorial integrity that must be immediately dealt with. These are separatist insurgencies, and Afghanistan - due to its claim on 50% of Pakistan's land and continuous attempts to invade & incite civil war, as well as its ability sustain & support insurgencies in Pakistan using the porous western border.

When it comes to these insurgencies – the inherent reason they have power is because there are core destabilising issues that make their recruitment drive so high. Apart from taking military action, you must also pre-emptively tackle these inherent 'fault-lines' in society which are exploited into insurgencies, by effectively getting rid of the fault-line entirely. Therefore, preventing the insurgency from ever rising at all or severely weakening its narrative. This brings proper stability, like you see in other nations. It should also be considered to settle heavily pro-Pakistani populations in problematic areas to grow stability and control anti-state elements.

The key fault-line which poses the most significant risk, and is very easily exploited by hostile anti-state elements is ethnic fault-lines, which is sometimes infused with religion (TTP). In our case we have TTP (Pashtun ethnic insurgency mixed with Islamic ideology) and BLA (Purely an ethnic based insurgency). The end-goal of these groups is simple, the balkanisation and dissolution of Pakistan, which is completely unacceptable. Afghan refugees must be monitored & deported, as they are used as militants to provide support to these insurgencies and are known to have visceral hatred towards Pakistan & its native people refusing to interact with locals, contributing to terrorism, murders, drug trade, and occupying land. They actively work against our national interests and pose a severe security risk. A deportation force similar to Saudi's should be formed.

As shown by history, these fault lines must be taken seriously & properly countered for true stability to be born, otherwise they continue to pose a significant national security risk which could lead to devastating consequences, such as Bangladesh in 1971. We must not allow any room for separatist insurgencies to flourish, to establish long-term stability.

Hostile anti-state elements tend to covertly hire national journalists to speak up for 'oppressed groups' in the name of 'human rights' and 'free speech' to ostracise them from the state and create hate between ethnic groups to destabilise society, as well as covertly influencing ethnic student council organisations to push their propaganda between younger generations.

Pakistan must immediately prioritise working on developing and refining its counter-insurgency capabilities to an effective level, and work to indigenise the technology used so it isn't reliant on foreign nations in time of emergency. It must have contingency plans in place for worst-case civil war scenarios, so we aren't caught off-guard, but rather are prepared to respond in a coordinated & systematic manner to deal with it effectively in confidence.

### **A National Identity**

Cultural assimilation is the key to Pakistan's long-term survivability & stability. Pakistan needs to focus on developing & maturing a strong cohesive national identity based on the inheritance of South Asian Islamic history, and also emphasising on our indigenous civilisations and historical

figures like Raja Porus, Adina Beg, etc, to integrate the country as one, under a single umbrella over time. Countries with strong centralised national identities are the most stable and difficult to exploit.

It is important to create a very nationalistic population that strongly pursues its national interests but one that can also value their religious beliefs at the same time, as they are intertwined. Both can co-exist together and Iran's society is the prime example of this. This will also bring more overall stability, while subduing separatist and Islamic insurgencies both. Combating them easily.

A confident and strong identity fosters motivation in the population which incites a drive to want to see their nation succeed. If you pair this confidence with a system that prioritises meritocracy - you will be able to extract the very best out of your population.

This is what Allama Iqbal and M. A. Jinnah envisioned but our leaders became confused along the way due to outside influence & pressure, as well as internal extreme liberals who fail to understand the core identity and existence of Pakistan which is not secular by nature.

Pakistan's goal should be to strive to create a modern society which pursues scientific & technological advancements but still retains its Islamic + cultural values, a beacon of indigenous and South Asian Islamic culture & history. We must be strongly united with a single national narrative and work aggressively towards their national goals.

## **Afghanistan**

Afghanistan poses the biggest external security risk to our national security since independence, as it has historically claimed 50% of our land, interfered in our affairs, and has supported various separatist movements in Pakistan aimed around the Pashtuns with desires of occupying KPK & Balochistan. It will continue to do the same once it begins to develop & gain power. Their ability to incite and provide significant support to civil wars due to the ethnic connection of Pashtuns/Iranics poses an incredibly serious security risk. It must not be trusted, & very closely monitored. Supporting the Tajiks in Afghanistan could perhaps neutralise the threat entirely, and secure our survivability (?)

It must also be remembered that even the US considered Afg-Pak as a single war theatre due to how porous the western border is, so when tackling insurgencies, you must consider it a single theatre of operations for any plan to be effective as they are able to sustain and support any insurgencies within Pakistan through giving safe-havens and manpower. During heightened security risks, a buffer-zone at the western border should also be considered to neutralise this threat.

The western border fence must be fortified with maximum security & surveillance, but cross-border travel for families should not be made too difficult. Ideally a wall should be considered in its place with check-posts, similar to what Turkiye is building. Facilities that Afghans require such as hospitals, markets, etc should be situated closer to the border areas. Afghan 'refugees' are used as militants for insurgencies within Pakistan, so they are a core part of destabilisation and insurgencies, they need to be closely monitored as well as deported.

## **Deterioration and ineffectiveness of National Institutions**

Another big issue which poses a significant risk is the extremely incapable but also corrupt national governments and institutions. The constant disregard of meritocracy and the culture of nepotism & corruption completely prevents competent institutions and government bodies from

being formed, which leaves us with largely incompetent and ineffective institutions that are incapable & simply unable to give us any satisfactory desired results.

Our national institutions are so incredibly incompetent & incapable – that they cannot even be called ‘institutions’. It is simply a collection of unskilled & unqualified men that do more harm than actual good.

This causes the nation to not only remain stagnant but regress while the world around us progresses ahead at a rapid pace. Meritocracy must be prioritised in national institutions for them to function properly, and for them to actually deliver. Nepotism is like a cancer that kills you from the inside, which only leads to incapable institutions in every capacity, it must be strictly avoided.

## **Religious terrorism**

To tackle religious extremism, these groups must be propagated as being Khawarij by national media assets consistently, and you must maintain a narrative edge over them which will stunt their recruitment drive and morale to continue fighting. Do not give them fuel which allows them to sway religious people into their folds - as long as you don't cross the redlines of the vast majority of Muslims with things such as LGBT laws - the state will continue to retain the morale upper-hand to crush them.

Apart from this, religious madrasas and institutions must be regulated by the state as they are currently breeding grounds for jahil, uneducated and self-claimed mullahs that preach incorrect interpretations of Islam that foster extremism, jahiliyat, and intolerance in the general population. There must be strict requirements in place for who is authorised and accepted as a proper Islamic scholar to put trust in, and they must have formal education as well as Islamic education. The ideal teachers should be knowledgeable and capable of discussions at the level of people like Daniel Haqiqatjou and Mohammed Hijab at the very least.

It is my opinion that the TTP is not purely fuelled by Islamist ideology – but rather heavily influenced by their own ethnic Pashtun motives hence the focus on ex-FATA, Pashtun-centric areas, and their Pashtunwali tribal laws. Hence it is fused with ethnic separatist insurgency characteristics.

## **Conclusion**

- Develop a strong cohesive national identity focusing on indigenous civilisations, historical figures and our inheritance of South Asian Islamic history & culture. Create a strong public narrative where people are incredibly nationalistic and strongly pursue their national interests, but can also practice their Islamic values at the same time. Both of these things can co-exist as shown by Iran. This will mean that as long as you act in Pakistan's greater national interests and don't promote anti-Islamic laws, you will always have the support of the people no matter what.

- Strictly prioritise meritocracy in national institutions and discourage nepotism to create effective and competent institutions that are able to deliver proper and satisfactory results.

- Develop and refine your counter-insurgency capabilities as much as possible and have contingency plans in place for any worst-case civil war scenario that could possibly arise, so you are prepared to deal with it head on confidently and in a systematic & co-ordinated manner. Also consider settling pro-Pakistani populations in problematic areas to force more stability.

- Fortify the western border with maximum security and surveillance to prevent the possibility of Afghanistan providing support to any internal insurgencies which it has a long history of doing, including attempts of inciting civil wars and actively invading. Deport their refugees who support insurgencies like TTP, and despise Pakistan and its people, contributing to terrorism. Consider supporting a Tajik government in Afghanistan that would be more co-operative with our concerns.

- Retain a narrative edge over religious extremists and terror organisations by aggressively labelling them as Khawarij, and by not crossing the red-line of the vast majority of Muslims by passing laws which they would strictly be against, and perceive as 'anti-Islamic'- such as LGBT laws. This way you stunt their recruitment drive, lower their morale, severely increase our own morale, and allows you to use extreme force to crush them. Regulate religious madrasas with educated and qualified tutors, rather than the uneducated jahils who preach extremism today.

