

Evolving Security Situation of Pakistan

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Abstract:

The international security environment is undergoing dramatic transformation. Changes and evolution have varying repercussions for developed and developing countries alike. Pakistan, as a key partner in regional security, faces both possibilities and difficulties. The multi-polar world order, globalization, and development of non-state actors highlight the necessity for a comprehensive review of Pakistan's strategic national security. This article examines internal security paradigms, including economic, political, governance, and internal peace and security, to develop a collective security approach. The article proposes collaborative national peace initiatives based on Quaid-i-Azam's vision of "Peace within and Peace with out". The piece advocates communal national security policy composition in order to maximize the benefits of the region's and beyond's more dominant geoeconomic trends.

Keywords: Multipolar World, National Security Perspectives, Territorial Integrity, Socio-Political Stability, Geo-Economics.

Introduction:

In today's turbulent world, it is crucial to prioritize state security and progress, even though the concept of security can occasionally be questioned. Three major trends are affecting Pakistan's security mechanism. The shifting of power from the West to the East and North to the South promotes a multi-polar world order. Second, rapid globalization and technology advancements promote free movement of goods, finances, people, and ideas, creating both unity and isolation. Non-state actors using fear and intimidation to gain political power pose a threat to national security. Convergence challenges state security in various ways. Pakistan, owing to its highly important location, has been affected by both of these dynamics by developments occurring on its eastern and western frontiers. Forecasts for the future demonstrate that near-neighbor maneuvers against Pakistan's national security and growth are expected to escalate. With a history of volatility, wars, natural disasters, and fragmentation, Pakistan emphasizes defense and security. Internal security dynamics are expected to be a major concern in the region due to obstacles to security. National security policies must be

developed with the support and authorization of all stakeholders and thoroughly carried out as a national duty. The publication explores Pakistan's security challenges and prospects, stressing key perspectives and recommendations for strengthening internal and external security. The assessment of the security environment illustrates both obstacles and potential for improving long-term security through historical perspectives. The rationale is that there is a positive collective resolution to develop the country today. Investing in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) connectivity projects, such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), can enhance Pakistan's security by strengthening its direction, formation, and capabilities. If our elected officials harness this constructive enthusiasm, it has the potential to propel the nation towards prosperity. Despite challenges, we must remain focused and committed to the route ahead (Buzan, 1987).

Geographical Perspective:

Human society and geography are inextricably linked, with their histories reflecting each other. A country's geo-strategic relevance is determined by its geographical location, whereas the relationship between a state's environment and its needs has been established since time immemorial. Pakistan's strategic location has rendered it a frontline state for both the US and China on separate occasions in its history. Geo-strategic location has tremendous political and economic impact. It operates as a "Zipper State" for Central Asia, the Middle East, and South East Asia. Pakistan shares geographical borders with China, India, Iran, and Afghanistan, as well as a coastline in the North Arabian Sea. Pakistan has an extended neighborhood consisting of Middle Eastern and Central Asian states.

As stated by Robert D Kaplan, geography serves as an indispensable "backdrop" for the human drama of ideas, will, and chance. Pakistan has endured both losses and benefits from its geographical location. After acquiring independence in 1947, the newly formed state confronted challenges with regulating its Eastern wing, which was prone to floods and cyclones.

Pakistan was barely recuperating from the 1965 war with India when the enemy struck again in 1971, leading to the country's fragmentation. The US's dual role as a frontline state has not been without challenges throughout its history. Pakistan's government and citizens have faced unprecedented challenges and trials. Pakistan's geographic location makes it a vital link between the Middle East and South Asia. Pakistan has

played a crucial role in the Cold War and continues to do so today. Pakistan's strategic geopolitical location necessitates its inclusion in global and regional discussions.

Topography:

Pakistan's geography has a diverse range of landscapes, including plains, deserts, timbers, hills, plateaus, coastal areas along the Arabian Sea, and majestic mountains in Central Asia. Pakistan is home to the Himalayan along with Karakoram mountain ranges, with the Karakoram being the most glaciated region outside the Polar Regions. Pakistan possesses five mountains exceeding 8000 meters, including the world's second highest summit, K2. In the north, the Hindu Kush mountain range spans 800 kilometers between central Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. Tirich Mir, at 7708 meters, is the highest peak in the region. It resides in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province that splits Central Asia from South Asia (Maria, 2002).

Demography–Past and Present:

Pakistan's diverse social and natural landscapes stem from its distinct geographical past. Pakistan has unique characteristics, customs, and traditions. The Great Indus Valley Civilization, which included huge towns like Harappa, Mohenjo Daro, and Mehrgarh, is a significant historical landmark. Although this civilization perished around 1700BC, its influence and remains can still be traced in future civilizations. Invasions from South West and Central Asia occurred during the next thousand years. By 1500 BC, Aryans had colonized throughout India, including Punjab. The Persians conquered Punjab in 500 BC, followed by Alexander the Great. Historically, the Mauryan Empire was formed and later conquered by the Greeks, who erected their capitals in Peshawar and Rawalpindi. Throughout history, Pakistan has been dominated by numerous civilizations, such as the Indians, Greeks, Arab Muslims, Turks, and Mughals (Kaplan, 2012)

This rich civilizational history has a significant impact on Pakistan's culture and sociology, as the country is a diverse and multilingual community. Pakistani society and culture are diverse, with ethnic groupings including Punjabis, Kashmiris, Saraikis, Makranis, Baloch, Hazaras, Pashtuns, Baltis, and Shinkai. Pakistan's culture is heavily impacted by neighboring countries' cultures, including Afghan, Turkish, Iranian, and South Asian Indians, Central Asia, and the Middle East. This diversity of cultural influences is shown in attire, food, language, and religious rituals. The character, constancy, solidarity, and perseverance of a nation's men and women, rather than its borders, terrain, or geography, are what truly define its demography and make it stand

out from the rest. Pakistanis, who rise from the ashes like a phoenix each time they encounter calamities and disasters, are a prime example of this dynamism.

Resilience–Enduring Feature:

According to Michael Kugelman of Asia News Network, "Resilience is a trait often used to describe Pakistanis, and rightfully so." Pakistanis persevere regardless of what is thrown at them. Pakistan has been a frontline state in both the 'Cold War Era' and the contemporary 'Global War on Terror'. This front-line status has resulted in massive casualties for Pakistan thus far. Pakistan's resiliency is key to its survival. It is reassuring that despite facing spells of violence and instability, divergence and divisiveness, the country not only exists but also excels as a compact and promising state, especially with China's BRI goal increasing its position further in the rising multi-polar world.

Burden of History with Difficult Neighborhood:

Pakistan appeared to be a helpless infant when it was first created. During partition, resources were unevenly shared between East and West Pakistan, which were separated by 1000 miles and faced a hostile enemy. The founding father's death in the second year of life and the war against India paved the way for turbulent times for the newly formed state. Pakistan has confronted socioeconomic hurdles since independence, including disproportionate asset distribution during partition and political instability. Threats from India, primarily due to the unfinished agenda of the subcontinent's separation in Jammu & Kashmir, have hampered socioeconomic progress by diverting resources towards security. The Kashmir dispute has been viewed as a major violation of the right to self-determination by the UN and the world community. Kashmiris remain determined to achieve independence and will not give up till they accomplish. Indian policymakers recognize the reality, but subversive actions that deny Kashmiris their rights are threatening peace in South Asia and causing security concerns for Pakistan (Bashan, 1968).

Pakistan's foreign policy is balanced, taking into account the changing global and regional geopolitical and economic environments. However, the future of Pakistan-India ties requires respect and peaceful coexistence. Both states should work to resolve long-standing conflicts, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, in conformity with UN Security Council resolutions. Pakistan may maximize the benefits of China's Belt and Road Initiative

(BRI) by adhering to Quaid-i-Azam's direction of 'Peace Within and Peace Without'. The BRI aims to promote connectivity and economic well-being for the region and beyond.

Assailability: Potentials and Pitfalls.

Pakistan is diversifying its security, strategic, and geopolitical goals to handle domestic and external problems and protect national interests, in line with shifting regional alignments. The political and security leadership updated its National Security Policy(NSP) and National Internal Security Policy(NISP) to tackle both internal and external challenges. Pakistan's security begins with securing its borders and territorial integrity, while also analyzing threats from its immediate neighbors to the east, west, and south. China's BRI vision, encompassing CPEC in Pakistan, has generated an entirely novel idea of 'Regional Security'. Pakistan recognizes the vitality of connectivity and a robust economy for national security, as they are crucial to the country's future success. This article discusses the susceptibility of Pakistan's borders to attacks from the east, west, and south. This requires an in-depth investigation of the assailability element. A country's vulnerability is determined by its geography and proximity to neighboring countries. A circle is ideal for defense because its perimeter points are evenly spaced from the center. A force in the middle can respond to threats from any point along the perimeter. A country's vulnerability can be assessed by comparing its form to a circle. Pakistan, an extended country, with a hostile neighbor to the east and an antagonistic state to the west. Pakistan has a total land border of 6774 kilometers, with India 2240 kilometers, Afghanistan 2430 kilometers, Iran 909 kilometers, and China 595 kilometers. The border with China is unique in that it has zero assailability due to the nature of the relationship. The degree of assailability depends on elements such as neighbor relationships and impending trends.

- High rate of disagreements.
- Level of enmity or antagonism.
- Propensity to use military force.
- Military capability available.
- Geography of borders.

Borders with the other three nations have varying degrees of assailability, with India possessing the most assailability at 7 or 8 on a scale of 10. Afghanistan has a figure of 5, while Iran has two, as illustrated in the image (Kreft, 2010).

Disputes in Neighborhood:

Since independence, Pakistan has faced territorial claims from Afghanistan and the ongoing dispute of Jammu and Kashmir with India. Pakistan confronts ongoing threats from two countries on its western and eastern borders.

India:

Lord George Nathaniel Curzon, in certain ways, influenced Indian strategy circles that perceived the world through an undifferentiated geographical lens, much like Indian elites today. Curzon's India included Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Burma. Curzon believed that India required shadow zones of impact, particularly in the Iranian Plateau, the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, and South East Asia as far as the Gulf of Siam. India's emphasis on the region's effect shadow zones is intriguing.

The long-running conflict between Jammu and Kashmir exemplifies the Indian perspective. Kashmir has been a source of tension between India and Pakistan since their independence. The concerns of Siachin, Sir Creek, and water persist to exert an impact on Indo-Pak ties, and their conflicts have also taken on a nuclear dimension. Pakistan's eastern borders have a higher concentration of forces and security capabilities to resist any potential Indian aggression due to these critical challenges. India's Cold Start and Doval Doctrines focus solely on Pakistan, anticipating that it can cross the border, temporarily control Pakistani territory, and fire punitive strategic and economic targets without causing widespread conflict. Repeated violations of the Line of Control make the border dangerous and perpetuate the threat from India. Pakistan has built nuclear weapons to deter any military assault from India. It has also implemented border security measures to maintain its territorial integrity.

Afghanistan:

Since 1947, Pakistan and Afghanistan have had largely hostile bilateral relations. Regional rivalries and cross-border terrorism claims in the post-9/11 era have exacerbated antagonism. Afghanistan's stable future relies on regional cooperation, with Pakistan playing an essential role. Afghanistan's instability hinders Pakistan's ability to restore security and economic by repressing internal extremism. Pakistan's geostrategic view, military operations like Al-Mizan and Zarb-e-Azb, and limited counter-terrorism measures due to its shared and

mountainous border with Afghanistan have not resulted insustainable peace in Afghanistan. Afghanistan shares religious, cultural, and traditional values, and relies on Pakistan for transit and bilateral trade. However, the lack of significant changes in Pakistan's strategy and actions towards militant groups sparked discontent in Afghanistan, India, and the US. NATO's presence in Afghanistan, with over 2000 kilometers of porous border, raises severe security worries for Pakistan. The Durand Line persists as a source of contention between the two countries, and India continues to use consulates in Afghanistan to cause instability in Pakistan (Buzan, 1987).

The recent rise of Daesh on Afghanistan's side of the western border has raised serious concerns for Pakistan. The gang possesses supplies, men, and safe havens in the slopes of White Mountain (SpeenGhar) on the opposite side of the Durand Line, where they have established their authority. In this regard, criticizing each other's governments will not resolve the issue because the threat is international and can only be handled through collective response methods. The border areas of Bajaur and Mohmand agencies require regular surveillance due to their high threat level. Fencing the border is another difficult move taken in the national interest. Effective border management requires seriousness and commitment from both Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Afghan Unity Government is influenced by the US and India, who seek instability in Afghanistan to further their own objectives in Pakistan.

Iran:

Pakistan's southwest border with Iran is fragile and spans about 900 kilometers. This frontier is plagued by drug trafficking, illegal border crossings, terror assaults, human trafficking, and illicit transportation into Iran and Pakistan. Iranian officials constructed a fence to deter unlawful trespassing and trafficking. This has created conflict between the two countries. The Balochs, who live on both sides of the border, allege the wall was built against their choice. Border tensions between them pose security risks at the junction. Pakistan-Iran ties have been regarded as frigid due to Pakistan's proximity to Saudi Arabia, which has a close relationship with the US. This has further strained relations. Iran envisions the Islamic Military Alliance (IMA) asa coalition of Sunni Muslim countries opposing Shia Iran and its allies in the Middle East. Iran's relations with Pakistan have deteriorated and General Raheel Shareef, Pakistan's former Chief of Army Staff, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Military Alliance. Pakistan considers India's involvement in Chabahar as a threat to its security, as India aims to isolate Pakistan regionally and internationally. To address these concerns, proposals include eliminating cross-border movements in the region, providing financial incentives, building a gas pipeline between Iran and Pakistan, and establishing an effective Border

Management Commission between the two countries. Promoting Chabahar and Gwadar as countrymen rather than adversaries can foster long-term relationships between the two neighboring ports. (Bakht, 2013).

China:

Pakistan's north east border with China is connected via the Karakorum Highway, which traverses the Gilgit-Baltistan province. China's Belt and Road Initiative aims to connect Eurasia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa via land and marine connections. Pakistan plays a crucial role in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by hosting the 'Gwadar Port' and providing land and sea access through its country.

North Arabian Sea:

Pakistan has a coastline of 960 kilometers along the Indian Ocean. Maintaining shipping lanes into the big ports of Karachi and Bin Qasim is of the utmost significance for Pakistan's economy. Pakistan's strategic location in the North Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean allows for efficient regional commerce control. Regarding external challenges to Pakistan, the most serious is Indian hegemony, which is expanding its influence through close coordination with the United States and other Western allies. Threats emerging from the Arabian Sea can be classified into war and peacetime periods; wartime possible threats include coordinated Indian naval, air, and land forces strikes. In the event that Pakistan must be controlled, Extra Regional Forces, namely the US Navy and Air Force, in tacit agreement with India, may launch an attack. Peacetime security threats include terrorism, piracy, people trafficking and narcotics, as well as clandestine and subversive actions such as mining, drone or rocket assaults, and suicide by anti-state actors. . Pakistan's Armed Forces are equipped with superior technology and intelligence, making them capable of defending against any invasion on its frontiers. The current topic focuses on key issues to Pakistan's internal security (Kaplan, 2012)

Economic Security:

A democratic society strives for sustainable governance, including favorable economic indicators, strong health and education facilities, and adequate internal security to ensure residents' social security and equal opportunity for advancement and prosperity. Pakistan, although being a democratic state, faces issues such as weak governance, political instability, shaky peace and order, lack of social justice, mounting national debt, and threats to internal security from extremism and militancy.

Furthermore, corruption is widespread and continues unabated. Pakistan is ranked 127th out of 177 on the Corruption Index, while the GINI Index shows a 29.3% difference between affluent and poor. The administration has shown the least willingness or commitment to expediting tax reform and documenting the undocumented economy. It is concerning to notice that Pakistanis are more confidence in investing overseas than in their own country, and as a result, capital is constantly flowing out of Pakistan. The current account deficit increased by 43% to US \$ 15.96 billion in the first 11 months of fiscal year 2017-2018, accounting for 5.5% of GDP. The deficit is predicted to reach \$17.5 billion by the end of June 2018, closely matching the full-year prediction of \$16 billion. Analysts believe that hefty import bills and international repayments have harmed the external sector's position. The current external debt of US\$75.7 billion is unsustainable for long-term growth due to excessive borrowing. Foreign exchange reserves are steadily declining (Buzan, 1987)

The circular debt, recorded at Rs.507 billion on May 31, 2018, grew to Rs.547 billion by June2018. Policymakers are facing a challenge due to consistent declines in investment rates and savings. In April 2018, Pakistan's GDP was anticipated to reach 5.28%, its highest level in ten years. The new government faces significant economic hurdles, including hefty debt repayment, expanding trade imbalance, circular debt, and a sinking Pakistani rupee, making it unlikely to meet the aim.

The country must pay US \$ 45 billion in debt and interest payments by December 2018, while also depleting foreign currency reserves. How will it avoid default? 17 The GDP is expected to increase by 5.85% in FY 2017-18, up from 5.1% in 2015. To stem the depletion of precious resources, tough measures such as austerity, increasing the tax base, curbing tax evasion, and privatizing loss-making public service enterprises can help grow the economy. Providing constant power supply to household and commercial consumers is crucial for boosting industrial activity and restoring faith in the private sector, which is currently experiencing power outages and shortages. Combining CPEC projects with growth-centered policies can boost growth rates in the short to medium term.

Pakistan, as the zipper state, can benefit from CPEC's energy, communication, and road infrastructure upgrades, potentially increasing bilateral trade with Iran and Central Asian states. The Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline and CASA 1000 can assist address energy shortages. Completing these projects on time is crucial for ensuring economic stability. To revitalize Pakistan's economy, all stakeholders must agree on a new economic policy that prioritizes self-reliance, austerity, and resilience over IMF bailouts. Pakistan's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction in the 1980s provided protection against existential threats. However, economic security is crucial for the country's future. To achieve this goal, the CPEC development plan should be implemented in an efficient way, maximizing its potential and avoiding debt traps (Bashan, 1968)

Political Instability and Disarray:

Stories of achievement in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, China, and India illustrate the significance of political stability, strong governance, and policy continuity in driving economic development. Pakistan's democratic system has been strengthened by the peaceful transition from one government to another in 2013. Political parties and governmental entities are collaborating and clashing as democracy becomes more participative. Politicians argue that focusing on development projects may win voters and sustain political regimes. To establish a driven by outcomes political mindset, leaders must respect democratic institutions while utilizing them as a source of power.

To make democracy more acceptable and effective for the average man, the current political framework should be expanded to allow grassroots participation. Improving democratic governance, including administrative and institutional reforms, is crucial for maintaining political stability. To solve shared issues, it is necessary to combine all arrangements and measures. Pakistan may achieve political security and long-term stability through a participatory democratic system that produces benefits. The National Action Plan (NAP) establishes a consensus on national security, leading to long-term political and economic stability.

To ensure internal stability, the government ought to collaborate with all political parties to strengthen the democratic system, integrate institutions, and respect the rule of law. Having three levels of administration (district, provincial, and national) allows for effective dispute resolution and results-oriented governance. In federalism, interprovincial collaboration is extremely important. The Interprovincial Coordination Ministry (ICM) should be accountable. Meetings of the Council of Common Interest (CCI) can help resolve disputes and promote a vibrant society in a politically stable country (Kreft, 2010)

Governance Woes:

Social equitable treatment and economic prosperity work together to construct a just society. Development promotes social justice by assisting the underprivileged, meeting their most fundamental requirements, and improving access to financial resources. Pakistan's socio-economic growth has been impacted by terrorism, violent extremism, intolerance, a large youth population (64% untapped), and other challenges.

Pakistan's socio-economic predicament is dire, with 22.6 million children out of school and 43% of government schools lacking essential amenities. Despite spending only 3% of GDP on education, the country's literacy rate stands at 55% after 70 years of independence. Approximately 145,797 doctors, 10,693 dentists, and 55,165 nurses are registered to serve a population of approximately 200 million. Pakistan's population expansion has been a major issue for decades, but the government has not addressed it well. Pakistan is currently the fifth most populated nation, trailing only India, China, the United States, and Indonesia. Good governance involves minimizing government control, implementing privatization programs, reducing bureaucracy, and focusing on cost-effectiveness. Improved governance, social fairness, and service delivery can enable the government to prioritize national security through socioeconomic development. Prioritize de-politicization and lasting reforms in the bureaucracy, judicial, police, infrastructure, and education/health sectors using the "Either Reform or Perish" philosophy (Bakht, 2013).

To promote reform, a national committee could advise reforms to the government. The mandate should be to provide cost-effective and intelligent governance, including monitoring institutional performance, creating objectives, choosing indicators, and scheduling assessment evaluations and reviews.

Internal Security Challenges:

Maintaining internal peace and harmony is crucial for Pakistan's image as a safe and respected country in the international community. Terrorism and foreign-funded militancy have had a long-term negative impact on Pakistan's economy and society. Pakistan has lost 70,000 people in the Global War on Terror (GWOT), costing the country US\$123 billion.²⁰ Terrorist groups like as Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant organizations have targeted religious minorities, rival groups, and ethnic groupings in addition to political leaders. The terrorist attacks had a significant impact on Pakistan's economy, resulting in decreased foreign investment, business relocation, human capital emigration, and increased business costs.

Despite a decade of democratic management, the country's ability to execute and regulate internal security policies is hindered by political indecision, leadership shortage, and inadequate governance. The 'Peace Within' policy aims to achieve 'zero tolerance for any form of violence'. This approach involves both short and long-term measures. In the short term, operations like Operation Radd-ul-Fasad aim to remove criminal elements from urban areas. In the long run, police and judicial systems should be strengthened to perform their responsibilities proactively through reforms and capacity building (Maria, 2002)

Addressing security concerns from extremists and sectarian groups is regarded critical.

In 2013, the National Internal Security Policy (NISP) established policy recommendations that were eventually incorporated into the National Action Plan (NAP). FATA reforms resulted in a merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bringing the region on line with the rest of the country. Reforms in madrasahs are crucial to prevent radicalization and extremism, and instead promote harmony in society.

The National Internal Security Policy 2018-2023 addresses both societal extremism and the rise of Daesh in Afghanistan, preventing its impact from extending to Pakistan. This policy prioritizes administrative, ideational, and socio-economic measures to strengthen internal security, recognizing that security and economy are interdependent. The National Security Management System (NSMS) has been integrated into the political system to promote civil-military consensus on national security and foreign policy. It would also handle challenges related to power transitions between civilian and military governments, which can limit collaboration on national security matters.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's robust society and vibrant population have helped it survive despite challenges. The government is adapting to shifting geopolitical environments by upgrading policies and institutional capacity to address current security issues, both domestic and external. CPEC, which capitalizes on the region's geo-economics, strengthens Pakistan's economic and connectivity in the multi-polar world. Pakistan's armed forces are well- prepared for external security challenges. Internal security depends on democratic quality, positive socio- economic indicators, and unselfish leadership. Finally, a visionary political leadership capable of managing effective governance, as well as democratic continuityand socioeconomic security, will be the game changers.

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