

## Afghanistan Factor in Enhancing Extremism and Terrorism in FATA

**Abstract:** Afghanistan's incursion by the Soviet Union in 1979 enhanced the elements of extremism in former FATA. In the post-9/11 period, tribal areas of Pakistan became a hub of militants and terrorists. Meanwhile, the role of Pakistan in the War on Terror (WoT) increased elements of terrorism and instability in the country. Many terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda, Haqqani Network and Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and other small terrorist groups including the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and Lashkar-i-Jahangvi started terrorist activities in the shape of suicide attacks. The study attempts to explain various internal and external factors (Afghanistan) which contributed to enhancing extremism and terrorism in former FATA. Furthermore, the research explains the anti-state activities of above mentioned militant groups in the area.

**Key Words:** Fata, Terrorism, Afghanistan, Pakistan, TTP, Al Qaeda, WoT

### Introduction

Religious extremism in Pakistan was mostly brought on by the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, which resulted in a holy war. Tribal society was severely impacted on both sides of the border, particularly in Pakistan's erstwhile FATA region. (Khan, Wazir & Khan, 2019, p. 75). The American attack on Afghanistan in 2002 as a result of the 9/11 event was another reason that increased extremism and terrorism in the region. ("What were the 9/11", 2022). Pakistan's government decided to take part in the global war on terrorism (WoT) started by the US (Hussain, 2018, p. 158). President Musharraf's (2001-2008) government took action against the extremist and religious organizations involved in anti-state activities. As Non-

NATO Ally, Pakistan assisted the US in logistics and the Afghan Taliban got defeated many militants who crossed Afghanistan and enter FATA by using a porous border. The Pakistani tribal regions have seen the beginning of a militant uprising. It is thought that Pakistan's choice to back the US in the WoT aided the country's extremism and terrorism. Additionally, Pakistan's cost of benefits was extremely expensive. ("Status of non-Nato", 2004). The paper goes on to examine the role of numerous groups, including TTP, Al-Qaeda, and the Haqqani Network, in fomenting violence throughout the nation, with a particular focus on the former FATA. ("Foreign Travel Advice", 2022).

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## **Soviet Union's Invasion of Afghanistan and Effects on FATA**

Due to Afghanistan's strategic and geographical location, great powers like Great Britain and the Soviet Union were engaged in Afghanistan during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Strategically it is linked between the Central Asian and south Asian regions. Geographically it links the Indian Ocean with the Heartland of Euro-Asia with the land strategies and Naval respective great powers considered these regions very important for development because this area provides oil recourses and minerals for great powers. Russian interests competed with Britain's interests. Therefore this land was the ground of the "Great Game" in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The great powers wanted to create their influence in central Asia; hence Afghanistan had a buffer zone between Russia and Great Britain (Karim, pp 248-51). When Lenin's fledging Marxist government originally acknowledged the new Afghan administration in 1919, the Soviet Union began to take an interest in the situation. Early in the 1920s, the Soviet Union showed interest in a number of initiatives in Afghanistan, including infrastructure development and the provision of military aircraft and trainers for the country's fledgling air force. Between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, ties were excellent throughout the following three decades. The Soviet Union made a substantial investment in Afghanistan in 1950. A military historian Stephen Tanner pointed out "that, invested in Afghanistan by building, dams, roads, airfields, schools and irrigation system as well as by searching for natural resources". In the early 1960s, historian J. Bruce Am Stutz wrote, "Soviet military instructors had completely replaced the longstanding contingent of Turkish officers traditionally the military advisor to the Afghan army. Of the almost 4000 Afghan military officers who went to the USSR for training all were obliged to take one or more courses in

Communism". Meanwhile, Afghan officers were interested in Marxist philosophy and joined the Afghan communist party known as the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) (Matthews, 2011, p. 5).

In July 1973, President Muhammad Daoud overthrew his cousin Zahir Shah in a coup and seized control. He purged communists from his government and jailed communist leader Nur Muhammad Tarakai, but only placed his colleague Hifzullah Amin under house arrest. Daoud and his family were assassinated by USSR commandos on Amin's behalf after 5 years in power. (Krickus, 2011, p. 10). After Daoud's death on April 27, 1978, the Saur revolution took place in Afghanistan, and the new Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was created under Nur Muhammad Tarakai, Babrak Karmal, and Amin Taha (Collins, 2011, p. 25). Since the 1970s, the Communist influence in Afghanistan's army has increasingly expanded day by day. In 1979, mujahedeen occupied the territory of Asad Abad near Khyber Pass and the government's hold on this area was broken. It was an easy victory for the mujahedeen during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (Matthews, 2011, pp. 5-11). When USSR invaded Afghanistan the local population was very disappointed and annoyed with the Soviet Union and started Jihad against USSR with the name "Afghan Jihad". The tribal people of Afghanistan and FATA supported the Afghan Mujahedeen because the people of FATA were culturally and religiously affiliated with them. Therefore extremism started in FATA after the invasion of the USSR. In the area of FATA, the Taliban expanded the roots of the network and conducted attacks on Civilian and military forces (Khan, Wazir & Khan, 2019, pp.75-76). The jihad lasted ten years, from December 1979 to February 1989, however, it was actually nine years and two months. It was a war between NATO and USSR. In this war, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the

United States were on one side, and the Soviet Union was on the other, despite the fact that General Zia-ul-Haq openly assisted the mujahedeen through ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) because he was a true believer of Islam and desired Islamic sovereignty in the Islamic world and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan has certain national interests in Afghanistan policy because USSR helped India against Pakistan., Dr Francis Fukuyama says the Soviet Union had three prospective to approach Pakistan "firstly to control it and if possible, eliminate threats to its position in Afghanistan secondly to block emerging relationship between Pakistan and USA and thirdly in the long term gain direct air and naval access to the Arabian sea through Balkanization of Pakistan" (Salik, 2019, pp. 23-33). About 3 million migrants originally arrived during the Jihad in the FATA region and other parts of Pakistan; this refugee influx led to population instability in the FATA region. Due to the fact that the FATA region shares a border with Afghanistan and that most of its residents are refugees, this has led to various calamities such as unemployment and poverty. Additionally, since cross-border activities are made very easy in the FATA region, some Jihadi groups have made it their focal point to incite violence against the USSR (Samo, [2020](#)).

### **Post 9/11 US Invasion in Afghanistan and Terrorist Effect on FATA**

Cold War between two superpowers, the US and the USSR began in 1979 and ended with the fall of the USSR in 1991 (Khan, Wazir & Khan, [2019](#), p.75). The US, along with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, gave mujahedeen groups weaponry and \$3 billion in economic and military aid between 1980 and 1989, and the Soviet Union already committed to depart under the Geneva Accord in 1988. Soviet forces left Afghanistan in 1989 (Jackson, [2009](#), pp.3-9). The Soviet security aid was clever and

helped establish the Alliance of Najibullah regime, which supported the Soviet Union and fought three years against mujahedeen before the Soviet Union's fall in March 1992, at which point Najibullah ceased fighting in the absence of outside support. With the assistance of the UN, a provisional government was established in Afghanistan in 1992, but it failed because of conflicts between Ahmad Shah Masood's Jamiat-i-Islam and Gulbadin Hikmatyar's Hizb-e-Islami followers, who controlled Kabul. Kabul was severely damaged between April 1992 and April 1993 by the bloody civil war between Tajik and Hizb-e-Islami fighters, which resulted in approximately 30000 fatalities and 100000 injuries. Anarchy reigned supreme everywhere (Collins, [2011](#), pp. 35-36). The other group was the Taliban who had shown a lot of efforts against Soviet forces in the bloody war of ten years from 1979 to 1989 (Ghufran, [2001](#), pp. 466). Mullah Muhammad Omar founded the Taliban movement in the city of Kandhar in 1994 to examine the violent condition in the nation. ("Who Are the Taliban", [2021](#)) In 1996 Taliban occupied Kabul major administrative centre of the Afghan Government, after one year in 1997, the Taliban achieved several successes in the civil war and became stronger. This was the political victory of the Afghan Taliban which was approved by him. The country's name was then changed to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from the Islamic State of Afghanistan (Ghufran, [2001](#), pp. 470-72). Taliban imposed Islamic law from 1996 to 2001. Under the control of the Taliban administration in Afghanistan, al-Qaida set up training camps during this time with the assistance of the Taliban ("Who Are the Taliban", [2021](#)). Following the Gulf War in 1991, Osama bin Laden determined to attack the USA. So, he relocated to Sudan from his native Saudi Arabia. After the Taliban's government in Afghanistan, Mullah Umar invited members of Al Qaeda and other armed

Islamist groups. Al Qaeda organized and carried out severe terrorist assaults against the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, as well as an attack on the USS Cole (DDG-67) in Yemen in 2000. Al-Qaida was declared a foreign terrorist organization by the USA in 1999. (FTO) (Salik, 2019, pp. 41-42). On September 11, 2001, the Osama bin Laden group hijacked four aircraft from four different air bases. Two of the aircraft flew toward the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York City, the third aircraft headed for the Pentagon, and the fourth aircraft headed for Shanksville, Pennsylvania. As a result, all four aircraft crashed, killing 3000 people in the 9/11 incident (Editors, 2010). 9/11/2001 was an unfortunate and unexpected day for the entire globe when terrorists from al-Qaida severely exploited the Pentagon and the World Trade Center (Musharraf, 2006, pp. 199-200). After the 9/11 incident president George W. Bush addressed from Oval office and declared "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve" and declare the military response against Taliban regime of Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden on this occasion president said, "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these actions and those who harbour them" (Editors, 2010). After post 9/11 Pakistan stood with America for national interest because the US could react against Pakistan if Pakistan could not stand with it. The national interests were involved related to economic, social and military aspects because the situation in Pakistan was not stable at that time. Hence India was ready to take a step if Pakistan could not stand with the USA. Therefore Pakistan wanted to take financial support from the USA to counter terrorism and extremism and Pakistan could take a step to ban the extremists and militant organizations in

February 2001. Secondly, Pakistan was the neighbouring state and frontline state, which fight against terrorism. U.S. ambassador Wendy Chamberlain discussed Pakistan's foreign office and demanded to help the USA against the Taliban. The demand was related to:

1. Stop any rational assistance for Osama bin Laden and stop Al Qaeda agents from entering Pakistan from Afghanistan. Halt arms transfer through Pakistan.
2. Grant American planes general overflight and landing rights.
3. Permit American access to the air and naval bases in Pakistan as well as the regions that lie along the border with Afghanistan.
4. Provide the US with all intelligence and immigration data.
5. Demonstrate opposition to the September 11 attacks and refrain from expressing any domestic support for terrorists.
6. Stop all fuel shipments to the Taliban and encourage Pakistani volunteers to stay out of Afghanistan rather than join the Taliban.
7. Take note that Pakistan will sever diplomatic ties with the Taliban regime in order to stop its support for them, and If the evidence strongly links him to the Afghan Al Qaeda network and if the Taliban continue to harbour him and his accomplice, it will cooperate with the United States to carry out the aforementioned strategies to eliminate Osama and his network.

These all demands of the U.S government were not negotiable for Pakistan. But Pakistan negotiated the demands of the USA and rejected two or three demands including "blanket overflight and landing rights" and offered only a narrow flight corridor. Secondly refuse "use of Pakistan's naval ports air bases and strategic locations

on borders" but allowed only two bases Shamsi in Baluchistan and Jacobabad in Sindh just only for logistics and aircraft recovery. U.S. government accepted the counterproposal of the Pakistan government (Musharraf, [2006](#), pp. 201-206). The main reason for demands was that the United States wanted Pakistan to be able to supply the military equipment and weapons used by the United States and its allies, collectively known as NATO, which consists of more than 40 nations. In order to fight terrorism, President Pervez Musharraf approved the US government's proposal and permitted the US and NATO to send military equipment and war materials into Afghanistan through Pakistan. He openly backed the United States' War on Terror (WoT) campaign in Afghanistan against terrorist groups ("Profile Pervez Musharraf", [2013](#)). Because the tribal region belt shares a border with Afghanistan, the inhabitants of FATA have to deal with the serious consequences of Pakistan's action. The tribal regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan were quite close, and some refugees who arrived as a result of the Soviet War in Afghanistan (1979–1989) chose to live in the FATA region. They had a very strong and close cultural and social bond with the Afghan people. The residents of FATA were prepared to assist the Taliban and other organizations. As a result, the Taliban and other militant organizations were spreading their roots daily and making the tribal region violent and dangerous for Pakistan's security forces. It was a great challenge for Pakistan security forces how to face the critical situation (Khan, Wazir & Khan, p. 76). In the meantime, South and North Waziristan agencies of former FATA were covered by Pakistani militant groups due to their proximity to and shared border with Afghanistan. Over time, these militant groups gained influence over the other agencies of Formally FATA and conducted terrorist attacks against civilians and security forces with ease (Hussain, [2019](#), p.

5). The other reason why terrorist organizations have taken over the FATA region is that it has a 400 km long border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, which has several unguarded places and rough terrain with very large mountains that make guerilla warfare quite simple. Consequently, it was very challenging to track cross-border movements (Laghari, 2008, p. 18). The American invasion of Afghanistan was another factor that caused terrorism to spread to the FATA region. At the time, Tora Bora served as the main base of operations for the Arab Mujahidin and their coordinators who fought the Soviet Union during the Soviet War in Afghanistan. Terrorists crossed the Pakistani border, settled in the former FATA region, and sought a safe haven when the US launched an operation in Tora Bora during the WoT that killed and detained members of Al Qaeda and the Taliban in those areas (Salik, 2019, p. 76).

### **"Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden"**

Al Qaeda, which was founded in the late 1980s, is regarded as having been founded by Osama bin Laden and Abdullah Azam. After Abdullah Azam's death in 1989, Osama bin Laden assumed permanent control of Al Qaeda (Salik, 2019, p. 41). Actually, Al Qaeda was founded with the intention of spreading Islam's influence throughout the world. Meanwhile, it supported the Afghan people to defend Afghanistan against the Soviet Union (Caruso, [2001](#)). In addition to arming mujahedeen, Al Qaeda also declared war on the Soviet Union. As a result, in 1989, Al Qaeda and Bin Laden returned to Saudi Arabia after defeating the Soviet Union in Afghanistan (Caruso, [2011](#)). Al Qaeda is thought of as a militant Islamic organization that opposes the non-Islamic regimes in the Muslim world. Al Qaeda opened offices across the globe, including in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the USA. Different

organizations that were linked with Al Qaeda supplied training facilities to Al Qaeda. The United States launched operation "Restore Hope" in Somalia in 1992 and the Gulf War in 1991. Al Qaeda openly opposed and declared "Jihad" (Holy War) against the United States. As a result, in 1991, Al Qaeda established headquarters in Peshawar, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Consequently, it created a network in Sudan in 1991 (Carusu, [2011](#)). In the mid-1990s Al Qaeda merged with the Egyptian Jihad group under Ayman al Zawahiri (Salik, 2019, p. 42). After the 9/11 incident in 2001 terrorism became a worldwide phenomenon there was a huge disaster for the USA. The 9/11 incident disturbed international relations. Hence, the USA launched WoT against the Al Qaeda network and Taliban but day by day Al Qaeda extended its branches all over the world (Khan, [2013](#), pp. 37-38). Osama bin Laden returned to Afghanistan in 1996 at Mullah Muhammad Omar's invitation and maintained tight ties with the Taliban because they had welcomed him. While Mullah Muhammad Umar, the commander of the Taliban, only briefly occupied Kabul (McNally & G, [2016](#), p. 3). After 9/11 Taliban openly supported Al Qaeda (Khan, [2013](#), p. 39). Al Qaeda and the Afghan Taliban sought asylum in the NWFP and FATA regions of Pakistan after the US invaded Afghanistan as part of the WoT (Irshad, p. 225). The former FATA region is located on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border's front line, sharing a 2400-kilometre border with that country. From here, Al Qaeda began the worldwide Jihad (Gunaratna & Nielsen, [2008](#), p. 775).

### **TTP and Anti-State Activities**

The latest name Taheek-e-Taliban was highlighted on December 14, 2007. However, a group with a similar name has created Shari courts in the Orakzai agency of FATA since 1998 under the name Tehrik e

Tulba (Movement of Students). Similarly, during this time period, five militant organizations combined to form Tehrik e Taliban, which carried out various criminal actions under the name of Taliban (Abbas, [2008](#), p. 2). But most prominently the formation of TTP was linked to the falls of the Taliban government in Afghanistan. In 2001, US invasion of Afghanistan thousands of Afghan Taliban and Al Qaeda members entered Pakistan and found a safe haven in the Area of FATA as well as some parts of KPK and Baluchistan. Consequently, religious extremism is elevated in these areas. Taliban leaders were seen working with local tribal leaders to recruit Pakistani tribesmen. The purpose of the training was preparing to madrassa students for the fighting of US and NATO forces (Jadoon, [2021](#), p. 4).

Initially, Baitullah Mehsud served as the organization's leader in the TTP umbrella group (Siddique, [2010](#), p. 7). With the decision of 40 shura members of senior Taliban Baitullah Mehsud was appointed as the ameer of TTP. Molana Gul Bahadur of North Waziristan was appointed naib ameer (Deputy) and Molana Faqir Muhammad of Bajour Agency had appointed the third commander of TTP (Abbas, [2008](#), p. 2). Some other commanders including Molana Fazllulh declared general secretary and TTP head of the Swat region. Molvi Umar was declared the official spokesperson of TTP hence another 27 groups joined the alliance of Baitullah Mehsud and are ready to work under the command of senior Taliban. Shura of senior Taliban leaders guided the TTP militants. Waziristan's Taliban divided the areas for administration senior commander led all zones and collected information from junior commanders. Shura members of TTP formed different departments for the purpose to run the organization for specific goals like Intelligence collection, identification of 'spies', revenue collection, maintenance of law and order and some other administrated perspective. These

specific rules were made themselves by TTP's shura. In the year 2007, many serious incidents were held in Pakistan including the Lal masjid incident and military operation and the murder of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto. In the year of 2007, there was a rise in suicide attacks in Pakistan targeting Pakistan army troops. After these incidents, violence and extremism started in tribal areas of Pakistan and a lack of trust was started in the government. However, TTP leadership was linked with political-religious parties of Pakistan including Jamat e Islami (JI) (Jadoon [2021](#), pp. 7-13).

As a result, TTP, Pakistan's largest suicide bomber organization, incites violence against the country's security services. Because abduction is a source of money for TTP leaders together with foreign aid, they participated in large-scale kidnapping in tribal areas and other regions of Pakistan (Semple, 2016, p. 72). The TTP commander Baitullah Mehsud had provided the shelters and facilities to other smaller groups. He had tried to gather groups under the leadership of Mullah Omar who was the supreme leader of the Afghan Taliban. Every group wanted to join TTP and wished must take an agreement of Shariah enforcement and loyalty to Mullah Omar (Rana, [2009](#), p. 9).

Hakimullah Mehsud succeeded Baitullah Mehsud as the TTP's senior and first appointed commander on August 5, 2009 (Tehreek Taliban, 2022). Mehsud's courageous raid against the Pakistani army led to his initial rise to fame. Hakimullah was a name de Gore eventually adopted, according to sources (his birth name is Zulfiqar). He was first Baitullah Mehsud's bodyguard before becoming a close associate and the founder of the umbrella organisation Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). A spokesperson for Baitullah was also designated to him. Hakimullah acquired his early schooling at a madrasa in a hamlet in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu

District. His popularity within the Taliban didn't start to rise significantly until the 2007 capture of 300 Pakistani soldiers. He was appointed Taliban leader in the provinces of Khyber, Orakzai, and Kurram, and he was credited with planning attacks on NATO supply routes in the tribal area. In 2010, Hakimullah co-starred in a farewell video with a Jordanian fighter who took credit for a suicide bombing in Afghanistan that claimed the lives of seven CIA agents. The Taliban, led by Hakimullah, forged a complicated coalition with various militant extremist organisations present throughout Pakistan. Hakimullah was regarded by many Taliban fighters as his best leader to date. He was regarded by his peers as a harsh and merciless leader. His status among Taliban fighters has increased as a result of his unidentified location and multiple reports of his murder. He was allegedly killed in a drone attack in 2009, one of at least two claims that were later proven to be incorrect. ("Profile: Hakimullah Mehsud", [2013](#)). The TTP anti-state group participated in a bombing attack in Times Square in New York City in May 2010 under the direction of Hakimullah Mehsud. TTP assassinated the information minister for Khyber Pakhtun Khawa (KPK), Mian Iftikhar Hussain. ("Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan", [2012](#)). The United States has offered a reward of up to 5 million for information leading to the capture of Hakimullah Mehsud ("Profile: Hakimullah Mehsud", [2013](#)). TTP carried out three suicide strikes on the United Nations office in Islamabad on October 5, 2009, and then on October 10, they carried out attacks on the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. The TTP was more effective and influential under Hakimullah Mehsud's direction. The most notable aspect of Hakimullah Mehsud's administration was the development of suicide jackets for bomber training, earning him the title of Ustad-i-Fidayinor Trainer of Suicide Bombers. Meanwhile, on October 15, 2009, the TTP

carried out terrorist assaults in Lahore that resulted in the deaths of 30 persons. The TTP has since admitted responsibility for the attacks (Khan, [2009](#), p. 3). TTP is one of Mullah's allies, and when they formed the organization, their goals included implementing Islamic law in Pakistan, which is based on Islamic Shari'a, uniting against US and NATO forces fighting in the WoT in Afghanistan, and waging defensive jihad against the Pakistani army. The Pakistani army began small-scale operations in Sawat Valley and North Waziristan. The TTP leadership fiercely reacted to these operations and issued demands for the removal of the army and army checkpoints that had been created in the former FATA region. During a search of Lal Masjid in 2007, the Pakistani army apprehended the imam (Abdul Aziz). The TTP sought the release of Imam Abdul Aziz and rejected all peace agreements with the Pakistani government (Abbas, [2008](#), p. 2).

In the starting era of TTP Hafiz Gul Bahadur and Mullah Nazir groups were not the parts of TTP who was the small militant groups and established Mukami Tehreek-i-Taliban. They were strongly attached to the Afghan Taliban, Al Qaeda and Haqqani network and opposed TTP for militant attacks on the Pakistani state. In 2009 TTP joined a strong link with Al Qaeda and foreign fighters under the leadership of Hakimullah Mehsud. Therefore, TTP increased the relations with Sipah-e-Sahaba and Lashkar e Jahangvee. The objectives of TTP linked with other militant groups gained reputational benefits. Hence TTP provided safe shelter to Al Qaeda in the area of FATA and Al Qaeda offered financial and technical assistance. In February 2009, Nazir and Bahadur build a strong Alliance with TTP (Jadoon, [2021](#), p. 6). Mullah Nazir covered the area to the southwest of South Waziristan, and Hakimullah Mehsud covered the area to the north of South Waziristan, as the TTP's violent activity grew daily. In order to combat the TTP, the

Pakistani army has been carrying out an operation known as "Operation Rah-i-Nijat" from 2009–2010 (Chaudhry & Wazir, [2012](#), p. 127).

### **Haqqani Network and other Affiliated Alliances in FATA**

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The Haqqani network is a militant organization with roots in Pakistan's North Waziristan region that includes members from both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Its ascending phase began in the middle of the 1970s with the cooperation of tribal fighters (Rassler & Brown, [2011](#), pp. 8-9). The primary characteristic of the Haqqani network was that the majority of its leaders were related to the same family, and only a small number of its commanders were graduates who were connected to Pakistan's Dar ul Uloom Haqqania Madrassa. Due to his bravery and fearlessness as a tribal fighter, Jalaluddin Haqqani is regarded as the network's true founder (Lurie, [2020](#), pp. 3-9). Jalaluddin Haqqani, who sided with King Zahir Shah during Muhammad Daud Khan's revolt against the monarchy, entered Pakistan with the aim of receiving military training in 1973. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the president of Pakistan, opposed Daud Khan because he believed that the soviets would benefit from Pashtoonistan's policies and its close ties to communists. The parents of Daud, meantime, were Pashtoon nationalists and active in the Pashtoon Independents campaign. a Pashtoonistan dominated by the Pashto language. Bhutto backed Gulbadin Hikmatyar, a fighter for Islam. Afghanistan was the target of a Soviet invasion that began in 1978, and at the time, Afghanistan appeared to be a client state of the Soviet Union. This time, Jalaluddin was originally established in Meran Shah, a region of North Waziristan. Jalaluddin was therefore a Zadran tribe member and a Paktika native. Jalaluddin received his education in an Afghan religious school before enrolling in the Dar-ul-Uloom

Haqqani Madrassa in Akora Khattak, Pakistan. From 1976 to 1979, Haqqani was on the executive committee of Hizb-i-Islami, the anti-Soviet and anti-Daud movement founded by Hikmatyar, Younas Khalis, and Burhan Uddin Rabani. In 1979, the Khalis group broke away from Hikmatyaar to form the Hizb-i-Islami Khalis group, with Haqqani serving as its commander in the southeastern regions (Dressler, 2010, p. 7).

In the 1980s, Haqqani was the most significant contributor to the jihad against the Soviet Union. The United Powers, China, Saudi Arabia, and other anti-Soviet states directly provided Pakistan with \$12 billion in aid to help this outfit. At the time, ISI and the CIA supported this organization and set up Mujahidin's supply network, providing up to 60% of their supplies via the routes through Khost and Paktia (Rassler & Brown, 2011, p. 7). During the Soviet War, Jalaluddin Haqqani became acquainted and linked with Osama bin Laden, the leader of Al Qaeda. The two groups cooperate after keeping cordial ties with Al Qaeda and share similar views. Jalaluddin Haqqani continues to have relationships with other terrorist organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba since they share a similar ideology. Armed militants and weaponry have been brought into Afghanistan from Pakistan over the border by the LeT group. As a result, Haqqanies spread power throughout Pakistan and Southeast Afghanistan. The union of these groups has terrible effects on civilians and military cells in two countries' border regions, and these organizations posed security risks to law enforcement.

In 1995 Haqqani formed the contacts with Taliban. Then, during the conflict with Ahmad Shah Masood's Northern Alliance and his ally Hikmatyar, who was on the front lines of Kabul, Haqqani led the Taliban force under Mullah Omar. Herath continued his military efforts, refined his logistical techniques, and took Kabul in 1996 with newly trained men despite the challenges

and defeats that the Taliban and Haqqanis experienced in Kabul and Shindand in 1995. The Haqqani network and Taliban had tense relations in the years 1999 and 2000, but they continued to promote their political causes and appointed Taliban members to the position of minister of border and tribal affairs. (Dressler, 2010, p. 9). After the 9/11 attacks, the Haqqani network supported the Taliban group in Afghanistan and continued the alliance with jihadist Mujahideen and create militancy (Weinbum & Babbar, 2016, pp. 3-4). Network command and control, training, and has retained its logistics nodes around Miranshah in North Waziristan. Haqqani Hafiz Gul Bahadur, a local tribal leader in the region is protected by border controls area between Khost and Miranshah. Haqqani, al-Qaeda and its affiliated used elements, for most of the last decade in the Miranshah shelter. In early 2004, the attacks have been recorded in the tribal areas of Pakistan, which were carried out continuously till 2008. In 2010, effectively the attacks doubled every year (Dressler & Jan 2011, p. 7). In contrast, the Haqqani network is connected to IMU (Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan) (Lurie, 2020, p. 7). IMU is a little Islamist group that was expelled from the Uzbek city of Namangan in 1990 and is supported by Saudi Arabia. IMU had a strong relationship with the Mesud tribe during the 2000s and sought to gain authority there so that Baitullah Mehsud, the TTP's leader, could use this group to carry out his orders in Waziristan. After Baitullah's passing, this group collaborated with its successor Hakimullah and formed a solid alliance with the TTP (Hahn, 2010). In North Waziristan, Pakistan, as well as North Afghanistan, IMU and the Haqqani network have a solid connection (Fitz, Sanderson & Marshall, 2014, p. 4). The government of Pakistan launched the Zarb-e-Azab operation in north Waziristan against all Taliban factions in June 2014 after the TTP and IMU coalition attacked Jinnah

International Airport. During the operation in December, terrorist groups attacked the Army Public School in Peshawar. The Haqqani network and other organizations that the Pakistani government and military supported have lost their support. Officially changing its stance towards the Haqqani network and designating it as a permanent militant organization in Pakistan. Following then, the Haqqani network's influence in North Waziristan decreased (Weinbaum & Babbar, [2016](#), p. 7).

### **Conclusion**

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In the past great powers like Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the USA invaded Afghanistan to achieve their interest in the region. Soviet Union's attack created a lot of problems not only for Afghanistan but also for Pakistan. Over 3 million people migrated to Pakistan. Even after the departure of the Soviet Army from Afghanistan; civil war

broke out in Afghanistan which led to the formation of the government of Taliban. After the 9/11 incident, Pakistan became the non-NATO ally of the USA and provided every possible support in WoT. As a result, many terrorist organizations started their activities in tribal areas of Pakistan especially the area of former FATA. The most prominent organization is TTP which made allies with other terrorist groups including Al Qaeda. The Haqqani network and its allies create security threats to the government and national security of Pakistan. From time to time, TTP and its associates conducted attacks on important places in the country. Pakistan army has been facing bravely the situation of terrorist threats in spite of thousands of casualties of army soldiers and civilians and Pakistan. Pakistan is facing music due to its cooperation with the USA in the Soviet war and WoT.

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