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Impact of Pak-Afghan Relations and Emergence of TTP on the Internal Security of Pakistan

Abstract

This study highlights the Impact of Pakistan-Afghan relations and the emergence of TTP on the internal security of Pakistan. The influence of TTP's emergence on Pakistan's internal security and its impact on the Pak-Afghan relationship. Additionally, it highlights the impact of the Cold War on Afghanistan's economic conditions and the rise in extremism. The impact of terrorism on Pakistan's internal security and overall regional influence on the Pak-Afghan relationship. This study also gave us insight into the impact of refugee migration on Pakistan's internal security and the rise in extremism in the region. The impact of U.S. withdrawal on Afghanistan TTP reemergence and internal security of Pakistan. The rise of violence in the border areas is also discussed in the study, which is a huge threat to the internal security of Pakistan and the Pak-Afghan relationship. The Afghan Taliban and the TTP's historical and ideological bond is the reason for the rise in extremist activities in the region. Reasons for mistrust and lack of economic dependence between the countries are also highlighted.

Keywords: Tehrik-i-Taliban Pak (TTP), Internal Security, Pak-Afghan, Emergence of TTP, Afghan-Soviet War, Political

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Title

Impact of Pak-Afghan Relations and Emergence of TTP on the Internal Security of Pakistan

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Abstract

This study highlights the Impact of Pakistan-Afghan relations and the emergence of TTP on the internal security of Pakistan. The influence of TTP's emergence on Pakistan's internal security and its impact on the Pak-Afghan relationship. Additionally, it highlights the impact of the Cold War on Afghanistan's economic conditions and the rise in extremism. The impact of terrorism on Pakistan's internal security and overall regional influence on the Pak-Afghan relationship. This study also gave us insight into the impact of refugee migration on Pakistan's internal security and the rise in extremism in the region. The impact of U.S. withdrawal on Afghanistan TTP reemergence and internal security of Pakistan. The rise of violence in the border areas is also discussed in the study, which is a huge threat to the internal security of Pakistan and the Pak-Afghan relationship. The Afghan Taliban and the TTP's historical and ideological bond is the reason for the rise in extremist activities in the region. Reasons for mistrust and lack of economic dependence between the countries are also highlighted.

Keywords:

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Contents

- [Introduction](#)
- [Literature Review](#)
- [Theoretical Framework](#)
- [Case Study Analysis](#)
- [Key Findings of the Study](#)
- [Recommendations and Future](#)
- [Recommendations](#)
- [Future Research](#)
- [Conclusion](#)
- [References](#)

Introduction

The peace and security of South Asian regions are heavily affected by the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The counterterrorism operations of Pakistan are also caused by the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The attempt to reduce the separation of extremes is difficult because of poor collaboration across the border and continuous mistrust between the two countries. Between the conflict and cooperation, this connection is often changed, which has its origin in

shared cultural, graphical, and historical links (Akhtar & Ullah, 2024). Over the years, the internal security of Pakistan has been greatly affected by the Pak-Afghan relationship, due to the existence of international extremist organizations, international insurgencies, and geographical changes. To promote instability in Pakistan, the group of extremist TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan) uses weak borders and tense international ties, which is one of the most important issues. The security environment of Pakistan is shaped by the nature of the

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Pak-Afghan relationship (Bukhari et al., 2024). After the decline of Kabul in August 2001 and the chaos in Afghanistan, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and other militant organizations acquired strength. By using the shelters in Afghanistan, the TTP increased its activities in Pakistan and attacked citizens and military personnel. It is important to change the policies because these events stressed the security equipment of the country and threatened the security of Pakistan (Akbar, 2024). Due to the unresolved refugee crisis, boundary disputes, and ineffective cooperation across borders, the issues of internal security of TTP are made harder and give a chance to the extremists to grow (Kaleem & Iqbal, 2023).

To save the internal security of Pakistan, the importance of handling the instability of the region is underlined by the link between the relationship of Pakistan and Afghanistan and the rise of TTP. The efforts of Pakistan against terrorism are hindered by the issues between Pakistan and Afghanistan that promote an environment that supports militancy. To acquire a deeper understanding of the role and the difficulties represented by the TTP is the goal of this study by examining the complicated impacts of these movements.

Literature Review

In the scholarly discourse, the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan and the internal security of Pakistan is discussed. Researchers, security economists, and politicians were attracted due to the revival and rise of TTP and the difficulty in the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The social and political effects of militant activities, highlighting the border protection issues, subject matter, and international factors, are discussed in this literature review (Jan 2022). The safety situation of the region plays an important role in the common history of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Because the open borders allow contraband and terrorism to move easily, the Durand Line is the reason for the dispute (Ullah & Zhihui, 2024). From the border of Iran to the border of China, there is a boundary of 2640 kilometers, known as the Durand Line. In 1893, an argument was made between Afghanistan and the British, and the Durand Line is the result of this argument. According to Akhtar & Ullah (2024), the activities of counterterrorism become more difficult because of unresolved issues of the border between the countries. Kabul will be under the control of the Taliban in 2021, and militant activities will be promoted due to the instability in Afghanistan, and also spread to Pakistan. Extremist groups like TTP have taken the opportunity of the absence of Afghanistan's government after the evacuation of America to leave a void.

The structure of the organization, political reasons, and the rise of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan have been

explained in numerous studies. From the extremist perspective, the TTP is a reactionary force in the worldwide war and a supporter of the UK for Pakistan. The organizations can endure the losses of the military because of the weak government structure of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and also due to the fluidity in the operations (Ahmad et al., 2024). It is found in a recent study that the attacks on security forces and infrastructure of Pakistan are increasing due to the comeback of TTP after the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The internal stability and security are greatly affected by the operations of TTP. Weakens the sovereignty of the country, promoting violence based on religion, and attacks on groups of minorities are the main roles of the organizations (Bukhari et al., 2024). In the capacity of the government, this activity of the organizations erodes the trust of the public and also causes the disability of the country, according to scholars.

Popalzay (2024) says that to reduce the threat of TTP, border management is important, as highlighted by the researchers. Due to the weak partnership between Kabul and Islamabad, extremist takes advantage of safe shelters across the border. To address the fundamental cause of terrorism, for the sharing of information and border security, there are many important methods, and the need for collaboration for counterterrorism is highlighted by scholars. Multiple holes still exist, even while valuable data is provided by the current study. Including education and employment in defeating the ideas of terrorism are some social economy components of terrorism that are not given sufficient attention.

Theoretical Framework

Field theory of the state, theory of conflict, and realism of international relations are the main prospects used to examine how the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan affects the security of Pakistan and causes the rise of TTP. a comprehensive approach, to understanding the complex relationship between international relations, the security of the country, and rebellion, is offered by these theories together (Aparicio et al., 2016).

In an unstable international system, where survival and international interest are the highest priority, the performance of the government is discussed in the Theory of Realism, which is an important theory in international relations (Saeed et al., 2025). The continuous conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan, this viewpoint helps in the explanation. The relation between the two nations, in which they see the action of each country as a threat due to the insufficient collaboration and confidence between Pakistan and Afghanistan, is highlighted by Realism. In combating cross-border terrorist activities, the indicated participation of Afghanistan is a direct danger to the security of the

country, according to Pakistan. On the other hand, according to Afghanistan, the instability in the country is caused by the involvement of Pakistan in the Afghan Taliban (Bibi & Muzaffar, [2023](#)). Because of this reciprocal distrust between the countries, successful cooperation is hindered in resolving the security challenges. To resolve the security issues between the countries, the role of a neighboring nation like India and outside powers such as America makes it more difficult and promotes geopolitical competition (Bukhari et al., [2024](#)).

In the rise of violence and political conflicts, the role of injustice in social economics is underlined by the Theory of Conflict. In the domestic aspect, the security crisis of Pakistan is highlighted in this theory (Mahmood & Akhtar, [2020](#)). To continue its operations and add new members to its organization, the exclusions from politics and socioeconomic disparities of Harbin areas of Pakistan help TTP. For the thoughts of terrorists, the breeding ground is developed by marginalized medical care, economic development, and education in these areas. To destabilize the government and promote terrorism, the TTP uses the division of religion and culture, which is also explained by the conflict theory. The internal security of Pakistan is at risk due to the continuous pattern of instability that happens because of the relationship between these identity-based and macroeconomic components. To defeat the appealing qualities of terrorist groups and build social homogeneity, eliminating these differences is very important. How internal security is affected by government problems in addition to socioeconomic and geologic components is offered by the integration of these theories (Akhtar & Ullah, [2024](#)).

Case Study Analysis

The Pakistan national security system has been impacted by the interpersonal connection between Afghanistan and the Pakistan Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) revival. This relationship emphasizes the growing threat of extremism leading to Pakistan's complex stability and security challenges. Historical landscape shows certain concerns like border controversy, intertribal border relations, and the external shifting power's impact on the structural connection between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Strengthened border control and trust-building initiatives are necessary steps that need to be taken to maintain Pakistan's internal security protocols (Khan, [2014](#)).

On 9/11, various countries announced the Taliban as extremists. After the 9/11 incident, U.S forces entered Afghanistan, and they considered the Taliban accountable for this attack. Pakistan viewed Afghanistan as righteous. Pakistan helped the Afghan Taliban in the tribal area of Pakistan, a group of 27 Taliban under one frame, to save Afghans from U.S forces, a group called Tarik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) (Asfahan & Arif, [2023](#)). This group's

funding comes from overseas and internal Pakistani people; they spread their links and numbers throughout the whole valley of Swat, which is controlled by them. After the TTP revival, extensive harm and pervasive panic have been caused by the TTP operations, encompassing strategically targeted killings, bombings, civilian targets, and military raids (Bukhari, [2024](#)).

Pakistan's national security and law and order agencies spring into action, confronting an unpredictable enemy. Operations like Raad-ul-Fasaad and Zarb-e-Azb have been started by the Pakistan military forces. The non-aligned policy priorities and lack of trust in politics between Pakistan and Afghanistan lead to all these issues. In the Pakistan tribal areas, TTP started unifying terrorist operations systematically in 2007. Pakistan's concerns related to country security issues have been rebooted by U.S. forces' departure from Afghanistan and the revival of TTP (Saeed et al., [2025](#)).

Factors Influencing Pak-Afghan Relations And The Emergence Of TTP on Pakistan's Internal Security

Some factors that influenced the connection between Afghanistan and Pakistan include the intersection of historical events, regional, and socio-cultural factors, all of which significantly influence the internal security of Pakistan. The regional power dynamics and geographical competitors have an immense impact on the Pak-Afghan relationships and TTP resurgence; these factors also have a direct impact on the internal security of Pakistan. The Soviets and the U.S. considered Afghanistan as the battlefield during the Cold War. At that time, Pakistan helped the mujahedin of Afghanistan. Countries such as China, Russia, Iran, and India also have serious reservations related to the TTP revival (Akhtar & Ullah, [2024](#)).

Increased Cross-Border Violence is the major drawback of TTP revival. The conflict on the Durand Line is one of the reasons for the amplified tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Afghanistan was not ready to consider territorial boundaries, as the border; these malpractices help terrorist organizations like (TTP) spread threats and terror across the border, which is harmful to the internal security of Pakistan (Khan 2024). The Pakistan internal security and Pakistan-Afghanistan relationship are shaped by the mass migration of refugees (Jamil, [2022](#)).

Pakistan secluded refugee camps for an absolute no of Afghan citizens during the periods of unrest in Afghanistan. 1979 was the period of the Afghan-Soviet war, during which Pakistan welcomed a large-scale movement of Afghan refugees. Due to the inadequate paperwork, some of the refugees have an elusive presence. This uneven environment in the refugee camps

helped some extremist groups, such as TTP, extend their authority in the border area, which was a critical threat to Pakistan's internal security. Pakistan security forces have shifted their attention toward refugee centers based in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to the insufficient monitoring and government framework in these areas (Jamil, [2022](#)).

Another factor that is affecting Pakistan's internal security and Afghanistan and Pakistan's relationship with Pakistan is the unclear policy of the Taliban of Afghanistan, headed by TTP. In August 2021, in Afghanistan, the Taliban retook command of Afghanistan, and the TTP has been allocating old philosophical and traditional bounds, both of them united on the same point of view of Islamic extremism. There are some reasons why the Afghan Taliban consider TTP as strategically ambivalent (Jan [2022](#)).

The main reason for the hindrance to the Afghan Taliban from launching a direct attack on the TTP is their philosophical and traditional bond. Another reason is they see TTP as a prospective critical asset they counter toward Pakistan. This uncertain behavior of the Afghan Taliban led to cross-border extremism challenges in the Pak-Afghan relationship and threats to Pakistan's internal security (Terror, [2013](#)). The Pak-Afghan relationship is deeply impacted by the issue between the two countries. These factors, such as strategic, political, and historical, play vital roles in it. In the whole scenario, Pakistan's internal security is affected due to the reunion of TTP (Bukhari & Khattak, [2024](#)).

It is a critical condition for Pakistan after the reunion of TTP, the same base of Afghan Taliban and TTP's lack of trust between the countries led to the failure to coordinate efforts which hinders trade partnerships and diplomatic due to the reciprocal distrust activities like trade and border region infrastructure projects will not be established in both nations they miss the opportunity of regional advancement it will be helpful for the reduction of security threats (Saeed, [2022](#)).

Afghanistan views Pakistan as a supporter of terrorist groups, and Pakistan considers Afghanistan as an encouragement of subversive activities in the region. This cross-blame has weakened the trust and hindered mutual advancement projects between nations. Indirect warfare has a direct impact on Pak-Afghan relations and indirectly affects Pakistan's internal security system. During the period of the Afghanistan war with the Soviet Union, the Western bloc and the U.S. supplied ideological, monetary, and logistic aid to Afghan insurgents to counter the Soviet Union. They supported Pakistan in 1980 (Kosar, [2021](#)).

The relationship between the two countries was distorted in the Afghan-Soviet war because Pakistan provided support to the terrorist group in the areas of the

tribe where they extended their network and spread radical culture. When the Soviets left Afghanistan, the Afghan position became miserable. They could not experience growth in any field, due to the maintenance of security in the region, and war proxy is still a constant factor. It has several drawbacks that both nations experience, even after its end, including national security risks, lack of trust, and intensification of terrorist organizations in both regions (Kosar, [2021](#)).

Economic vulnerabilities and different scenarios of trade play vital roles in the Pak-Afghan relationship; all these factors are interconnected with the internal stability of Pakistan and the resurgence of the Taliban. The unreliable polices, trade barriers, and push both Pakistan and Afghanistan toward a decrease in trade turnover. There are certain issues, such as the black market, illicit trade, and economic governance, that disrupt the momentum of trade between countries (Threlkeld & Easterly, [2021](#)).

In any country, the media influences the perception of the public regarding different matters, either positively or negatively. Media also helps in international and internal levels of regulatory frameworks and plays a crucial role in the stability and security of the country. The reunion of TTP also plays a significant role in the maintenance of the security protocols. There is some point between the two nations that is the reason for the tension in regions encompassing ethnic Pashtun nationalism, the Durand Line, and cross-border terrorism. Media jingoistic attitudes have decreased international negotiation in countries (Khan & Pratt, [2022](#)).

Afghan media have represented the suspected intervention of Pakistan's institutional affairs in Afghanistan, and Pakistan's media channels present assumed support of Afghanistan in propaganda working against Pakistan. In Afghanistan, they want to create protected border areas. The Taliban started the movement of extremism on the Pak-Afghan border. A Pakistani journalist shows the reciprocal arrangement problems and the government of Afghanistan's breakdown in the participation against the Terek-e-Taliban (TTP) asylums (Bhatti, [2013](#)).

The media's role in the security system is prominent; they promote stereotypes, spread fear, and impose binary thinking in the general public. Due to their ways of reporting, they spread one-sided stories to the public and create false perceptions of scenarios in public. A critical role was played by the international media in the shaping of the Afghanistan-Pakistan relationship. Big powers such as Russia, the United States, and China's involvement in this piece of land is highlighted by the global channels (Khurshid, [2024](#)).

Pakistan's internal security and Pak-Afghan relationship are affected by the U.S. exit strategy this exit

builds a hallow space in Afghanistan which was rapidly occupied by terrorists Afghanistan initially Pakistan's relationship with the TTP is somehow good in the long-term vision to reduce ambiguity in the border areas both the general public and armed forces were attacked by the theorist group after the revival of TTP in Pakistan. The Pakistan military and the political institutions needed to work collaboratively to face challenges created by the TTP revival (Bukhari et al., 2024).

The factor that is a threat to internal security after the TTP's emergence in Pakistan has gained fame in the region. They helped Kashmir, Waziristan Pashtun shaped themselves in the form of Taliban during the period of India Kashmir warfare, they moved into Kashmir to motivate the Kashmiris for the liberty from forces and conquest against Indian forces. When they come back to Pakistan, they regain power and are involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan. It was hard to control their framework, which is why military operations in several areas of Pakistan have been started to make Pakistan a peaceful country (Ahmed, 2016).

Key Findings of the Study

Afghanistan and Pakistan should work collectively to maintain peace and a strong relationship in the region. The revival of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Pakistan. It hurts the overall well-being of the region, internal security, and economic development. In the beginning, Pakistan considered this reunion as a competitive edge and beneficial. The rapid growth in extremist activities such as targeted attacks on the general public and the armed forces, suicide bombing, and disruption of regional stability in the region is due to the traditional and philosophical bond between the Afghan Taliban and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). It hurts the relationship between the two countries.

To overcome this threatening situation, Pakistan has taken diplomatic initiatives and defensive military operations. There is the same ideological, traditional, ethical, and Islamic bonding between the Taliban in Afghanistan and the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). In August 2021, when the Taliban returned to the government, major changes in the country took place. Statecraft and internal security of Pakistan were impacted by this step. The Taliban's authoritarian government is escalating the disaster due to their regulations related to the rights of women, confined rules related to the minority, and their unyielding views regarding Islam.

Pakistan's international diplomacy policies with other regions in the globe are transformed by the connection with Afghanistan and other bordering states. Pakistan's financial and socio-cultural condition turned toward downfall due to the rapid increase in the refugee shelters and trade disruption. All of this happened because of the

uncertain situation in Afghanistan. Due to issues such as the Durand Line, Pakistan border areas becoming unsafe, and the rise in cross-border terrorism, it is noted after the reunion of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The media plays an important role in the development of the perception of public and internal security in Pakistan.

The Afghanistan cold war with the Soviet Union and the U.S hurt the overall region after that Afghanistan faced social and economic crises and the Taliban regained power in Afghanistan in Pakistan the social condition also worsened because it was the reason for a rapid surge in the extremist groups like of Tarik-i-Taliban Pak (TTP) which becomes harmful for the internal security of Pakistan later. There is a rapid increase in extremist activities observed, especially in the tribal areas of Pakistan, and the uneven situation on the border hurts the security and economic situation in Pakistan.

Recommendations and Future

This study highlights the impact of Pak-Afghan relations and the emergence of TTP on the internal security of Pakistan. This topic provides insight to the reader and scholars who want to deeply study the root of these problems. Here are the suggestions for future researchers who could work on these areas.

Recommendations

Secure border areas: Implement new strategies to secure border areas and bring technological advancements, such as security barriers, flying robots, and movement detectors.

Protective measures against terrorism: military operations against the terrorist cells of agencies like TTP, and develop intelligence coordination Mechanisms.

Manage Refugee Situations: enhance operation-related refugees' identity and measure security challenges associated with them.

Improve economic relationship: enhance trade ties between both countries and economic advancement in the region, which helps in strengthening the Pak-Afghan relationship.

Future Research

Outcomes of U.S. and NATO military withdrawal: the internal security of Pakistan is impacted by the U.S. and NATO military withdrawal

Counterterrorism and human rights protection: operation against terrorism's impact on basic human rights activities

Socioeconomic drivers of radicalization: social factors such as poverty, poor economic conditions of the region, and uneven distribution of natural resources lead to the surge in terrorism.

Regional powers' involvement: other countries' influence on the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and extremist activities in the region.

TTP's funding channels: the researcher will conduct a survey on the resources for funding the criminal activities of the TTP.

Future researchers ought to implement a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to study these important topics and conduct more valuable research on the Pak-Afghan relationship, the revival of TTP, and their impact on the internal security of Pakistan.

Conclusion

The internal security of Pakistan and the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan are deeply affected by the TTP reunion. Some factors related to tradition, culture, and diplomatic strategy also have a huge influence on them. Afghanistan and Pakistan have had the same border since ancient times, and trade, exchange of people, and extremist group movement activities take place between them. The unrest in Afghanistan started after the 9/11 incident and the Soviet Union war. The Taliban group rose in Afghanistan after the U.S.

withdrawal. They held a specific position, and with time, they moved toward Pakistan.

The Pakistan tribal areas are near the border of Afghanistan and are safe spaces for the Taliban to hide their identities they cross the borders and enter tribal areas increasing their number from a few to numerous extremist activities in Pakistan after a large number of refugee migrants it is the big challenge for the Pakistan internal security and the relationship of both countries in the region and with other powers. Pakistan should take crucial steps in strategic development to bring peace and economic stability to the region.

Military operations have started, informed decision-making has been implemented, and anti-terrorism laws have been enacted to deal with the situation. All these strategies and regulations work on the TTP framework's ability, which becomes weak. Political and Social origins of extremism has also played a role in the increment of terrorist activities mostly ignoring Pakistan's work on these factors to bring equality and harmony in the region to stop the Taliban's growing negative influence in the region that also has impacted Pakistan and Afghanistan relationship Pakistan is working on madrasas because the first target of Taliban was madrassa students they pick and trained them according to their narrative and use them again nation.

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