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## **The Rise of Terrorism in Pakistan after the Evacuation of US Forces from Afghanistan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This article will explore rise of terrorism in Pakistan and analyzes the evacuation of US forces from Afghanistan. Terrorism is the major issue in Pakistan which has various roots. The most prominent of which is terrorist groups like BLA and specially TTP after the takeover of afghan Taliban. Taliban regain their position after 20 years as US withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. Moreover, article deeply examine instability in Afghanistan effected the whole region specially Pakistan being its neighbor country, as well as the anti-sentiments of afghan people because the role of Pakistan in WOT (War on Terror) result in an uptick of terrorism, earlier Pakistan with US participated in counter-terrorism operations but now it should adopt "soft power" policy and resolve issues with afghan government at diplomatic stage because containing terrorism with power will more radicalize the terrorist groups. Pakistan and china also majorly contribute in peace talks with Afghanistan. Furthermore, influx of refugees, economic instability and lack of education also associated with the rise of terrorism. This paper also infers that how after Taliban control TTP becomes too powerful and why suddenly there was spike in the number of terror attacks in Pakistan and also discusses the role of other militant groups in rising terrorism. India being Pakistan's traditional enemy always tried to spread propaganda to cause instability in Pakistan by indirectly supporting terrorist groups and mockingly said "Pakistan export terrorists". While the paper outlines the perspective of Pakistan regarding the return of Taliban 2.0 and perspective regarding the withdrawal of US forces and how it will impact on Pakistan and revised implementation of Pakistan in this aspect and the challenges it has to face like refugee influx, risk of proxy wars and reemergence of jihadism. In addition to this the article discusses the recommendations and policies to reduce terrorism.*

**Keywords:** *Taliban regime, US withdraw, soft power, refugee influx, rise of terrorism, Pakistan's implementations.*

### **Introduction**

After nine rounds of peace talk On February 29 in Doha, Qatar a peace agreement held between United states and Afghanistan according to which US will evacuate its armed forces and afghan Taliban promised that their soil will not be used again for any terrorist activity and guarantee counterterrorism including actions against Al-Qaeda and TTP (Jahangir, n.d.). Pakistan also expects Taliban government to fulfill their obligations, approach international community regarding transnational terrorism and concerned about women rights and education. (Noor, 2021) moreover Pakistan also played role in the peace settlement of

Afghanistan, tried to negotiate and gathered the countries at table to resolve the issue but when Biden's sudden announcement regarding the withdraw of forces raised concerns for Pakistan about US unilateral decision but Pakistan helped US in evacuating 7000 foreigners from Afghanistan and this escalate anger in afghans as Pakistan was the front line ally of US in War on terror and proxy war like soviet afghan war. Pakistan has long history of terrorism in which about 80000 civilians and 5000 soldiers has been killed also during US airstrikes for counter-terrorism and destroying safe heavens of AL-Qaeda 3000 Pakistani civilians were killed which intensify Anti-American sentiments in Pakistan. TTP was formed in 2007 by Baitullah Mehsud but its roots baked to 2002 when Pakistan when Pakistan launched operation to remove foreigners in fata Noor, 2021. The terrorist groups TTP, Al-Qaeda are connected with afghan Taliban so takeover of Taliban is concerning for Pakistan regarding its national security (Bakhsh et al., 2024). Other terrorist groups like jaish-e-muhammad and Lashkar-e- taiba also activated after afghan takeover specially BLA which want Baluchistan independence from Pakistan and attacks mainly or security forces and Chinese projects because they consider that china extracting their resources (wealth) which has no benefit to local people.

While on the other hand injustice, inequality, corruption and lack of education also play role in terrorism because many people after feeling deprived and due to a sense of revenge joined these terrorist groups (Akhtar, 2021). Weak leadership failed to unit ethnic groups, failed to give equal opportunities and rights which is the cause people joining these groups moreover essentially during proxy wars Pakistan gave shelter to many afghans which changed the ideology of that area of people and hence, results in the rise of Islamic jihadism (Akhtar, 2021) The article also discusses about the down turn relation of Pakistan and US and the concept of "international anarchy" regarding Afghanistan. Moreover, Pakistan should focus on the soft power to ties close with Afghanistan. So Pakistan should engage with china regarding Afghanistan crisis because unstable Afghanistan means instability in whole regions which would be beneficial for both US and India while the one suffers most in this situation is Pakistan because of the long border at Darund line with Afghanistan.

The paper further discusses what the reasons of terrorism are and why even by taking steps against it does not eradicate completely and how Pakistan should keep balance in the region by reconciling with US and also satisfying Afghanistan at the same time.

### **Attacks on Pakistan**

Attacks on Pakistan by extremist groups can be divided into two categories

- Before Taliban regime
- After Taliban 2.0 takeover

It will better help to understand and analyze the rise of terrorism in Pakistan.

### **Past attacks**

- The terror group (TTP) also accused for the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and educationist Malala yousafzai, although they refused to take the charge but CIA confirmed it was TTP.
- In 2007-2008 (TSNM) and mualvi Umar took the liability of suicide bombing in military convoy.
- In 2009 TTP spoke person mehsud in his interview with BBC took the responsibility of bombing in Police training academy he claimed that he

- claimed that it was their retaliation against US missile strikes in which Pakistani government was involved
- On 27 August 2009 Azam took the responsibility of bombing near Torkham in which 22 people were killed.
  - In 2009 Azam again claimed 3 separated suicide attacks on 10 military buildings in Lahore, attacks on FIA and on World Food Program.
  - In 2010 TTP claimed responsibility of suicide bombing in two mosques in Lahore, same year in July it did attack on Mohmand Agency near government officials in which 56 people were killed while 100 civilians were injured.
  - In 2010 in Waziristan TTP kidnapped 23 persons who had recent meeting with Pakistan military.
  - In 2011 it attacked on NATO fuel tankers and targeted police in Peshawar.
  - On 10 February in Mardan they bombarded military compound in which 31 people were killed and in Faisalabad car explosion 32 people were killed while 125 were injured. The spokesperson Azam again in his interview with Al Jazeera said they retaliate after US strikes on tribal areas, moreover he warned those who helped US.
  - 26 April, 2011 Ehsanullah claimed assaulting Navy bus in Karachi.
  - In 2012 TTP released video in they captured 15 Pakistani soldiers.
  - On 24 June 2012 TTP attacked in which 13 Pakistani troops and 14 militants were killed.
  - On 9 October 2012 TTP lashed out at school bus after which its spokesperson said that "Anyone who is against the sharia of Islam should be killed" and not only this he added that "it is lawful in Islam to do such things".
  - In 2014 TTP claimed responsibility for attack on school in Peshawar in which 141 were killed out of which 132 were students and also in Bacha Khan University 30 students including teachers were killed.
  - In 2017 in Parachinar in blast 25 people were killed and 87 were injured. In 2017 they attacked on Latha sub division on Pakistani army.
  - In 2019 it claimed responsibility for road side bomb blast four people were killed and 6 were injured and they were helping govt. officials against Taliban.
  - In 2020 claimed liability of 79 attacks in which 100 people were killed and 206 were injured including 80 Pakistani soldiers. (Wikipedia Contributors, 2025)

#### **Current attacks**

- TTP attacked on Chinese nationals in hotel in Quetta, also attacked on FATA security forces.
- On April 2021, TTP attacked on Serena hotel in Quetta in which four people were killed but the actual target was Chinese ambassador.
- On 13 July 2021, Pakistani soldiers during operation in Kurram region rescued 5 telecommunication workers which were captured by terrorist. The operation was successful but 2 Pakistani soldiers and 3 TTP members were killed (Wikipedia Contributors, 2025)
- From 18 July to 30 July 24 2021 soldiers were killed during attacks

- TTP took responsibility for killing policemen soldiers, in Peshawar and north Waziristan in 2022.
- In 2023 about 400 political violence events happened most of which occurred in KPK (67%) while other carried out in Baluchistan (about 31 %). (Herbert & Idris, 2024)
- While in 2024 Pakistan killed the senior leader of TTP ustad Qureshi. In response to TTP on Pakistan security personnel in dera ismail khan, they attacked on security forces on December in which 16 soldier were dead, and in retaliation of TTP assaulted Paktika province killing 46 afghans. (Banerjee, 2025)

### Comparison of terror attacks before and after Taliban control through data charts and statics

#### Before Taliban takeover

##### 2017

	Punjab	KPK	Sindh	Baluchistan
Attacks	15	75	40	183
Killed	59	92	112	308
Injured	208	175	303	572

##### 2018

	Punjab	KPK	Sindh	Baluchistan
Attacks	6	40	14	99
Killed	18	72	21	354
Injured	42	174	20	570

##### 2018

	Punjab	KPK	Sindh	Baluchistan
Attacks	6	40	14	99
Killed	18	72	21	354
Injured	42	174	20	570

##### 2019

	Punjab	KPK	Sindh	Baluchistan
Attacks	5	125	14	84
Killed	82	145	98	171
Injured	-	239	2	436

##### 2020

	Punjab	KPK	Sindh	Baluchistan
Attacks	7	179	18	42
Killed	5	100	20	95
Injured	59	206	76	216

#### After Taliban takeover

##### 2021

	Punjab	KPK	Sindh	Baluchistan
Attacks	7	111	8	81

Killed	17	169	13	316
Injured	63	122	35	345

**2022**

	Punjab	KPK	Sindh	Baluchistan
Attacks	25	160	54	110
Killed	28	348	36	254
Injured	27	313	58	218

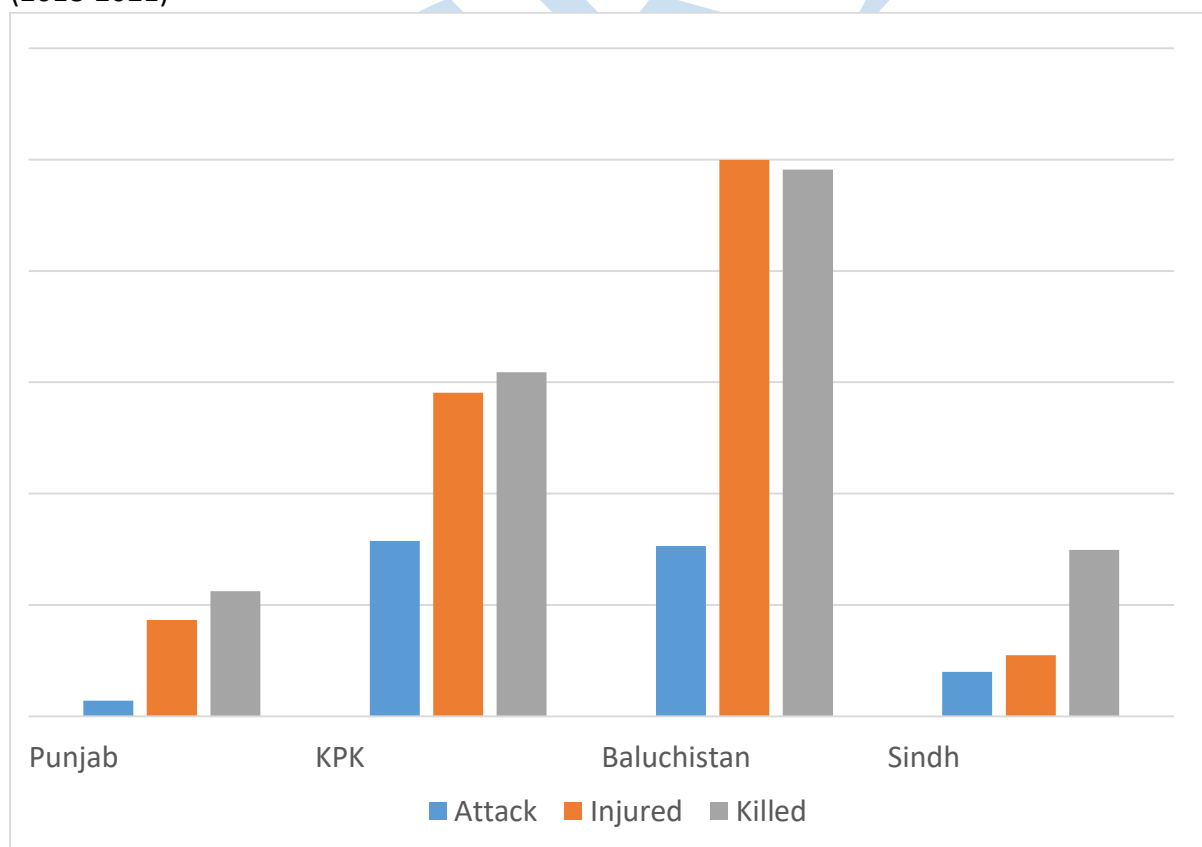
**2023**

	Punjab	KPK	Sindh	Baluchistan
Attacks	14	419	35	170
Killed	20	620	39	285
Injured	14	977	35	388

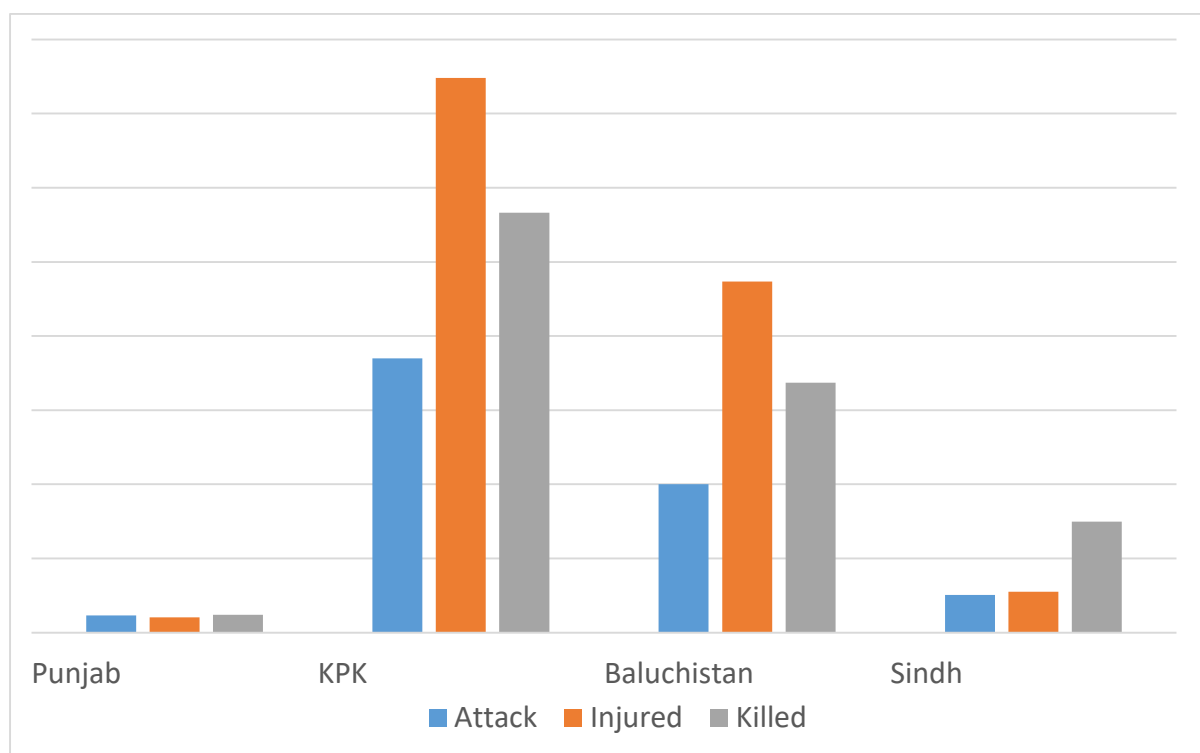
**2024**

	Punjab	KPK	Sindh	Baluchistan
Attacks	11	295	12	202
Killed	6	509	14	322
Injured	12	517	28	534

Before Taliban regime  
(2018-2021)



After Taliban takeover  
(from 2022-2024)



so, it is clearly seen that attacks after Taliban regime has increase. If we consider data from 2022-2024 it shows that 90 percent of attack happened in Baluchistan and specially KPK, with almost 740+ attack in KPK and 400 attacks in Baluchistan while in Sindh and Punjab the ratio of attacks before and after Taliban overall remain less but to a small degree increased after Taliban control. The most affected areas are the tribal or under developed areas of KPK and Baluchistan like FATA. Terror attacks are more often in KPK and Baluchistan because these regions share border with Afghanistan

(proximity to Afghanistan) and TTP bases are present there moreover, because the area is under developed, poor infrastructure and more illiteracy rate. (Ahmed, 2023)

#### **BLA role in rising terrorism**

TTP is not alone in escalating terrorism in Pakistan, BLA attacks after afghan regime also increased.

BLA is Baluchistan separatist armed organization and seeks Baluchistan independence due to lack of freedom, underdevelopment and past bad historical event. Its attacks after Taliban control increased because of

- ✓ “security vacuum” after US forces gone due to weak surveillance chances of attacks increased.
- ✓ After Taliban government BLA find more safe heavens in Afghanistan

- ✓ Motivation from Taliban that “if the can defeat USA we can defeat Pakistan”.
- ✓ As TTP attacks spike specially in KPK Pakistan intelligence focus shifts more toward TTP in KPK that gives BLA opportunity to attack in Baluchistan.

### **Post and Pre attack of BLA after Taliban**

#### **Before from (2013-2020)**

- ✓ In 2013 BLA attacked Ziarat (residence of Qaud-e-Azam) targeting Pakistan’s national symbol.
- ✓ In 2018 attacked in Dalbadin on Chinese Engineers.
- ✓ On June 29, 2020 on Karachi stock exchange

#### **After from (2021-2025)**

- ✓ In 2020 attacked in Gwadar on Chinese convoy
- ✓ In 2022 attacked in Noshki, Panjgur in which 9 soldiers were killed.
- ✓ In 2022 attacked on Karachi University.
- ✓ In 2023 lashed out in Turbat on police convoy
- ✓ 2024 assaulted Chinese interest in Gwader
- ✓ In 2025 train attack in Baluchistan

Mostly BLA attacks on security forces, infrastructure and Chinese workers because they thought that Chinese are looting Baluchistan wealth.

Year	Attacks	Killed
2020	76	215
2021	81	136
2022	160	406
2023	278	471
2024	302	580
2025	----	25 in train attack

It is noticeable that BLA is not directly connected with TTP. They may share their safe heavens and networks of facilitators. Moreover, ultimate goal of both is to cause chaos in Pakistan so, we can say “Enemy of an enemy is a friend”. (Hummel)

### **Analyzing the reasons of rise of terrorism in Pakistan**

“terrorism is an unlawful use of violence or thereat to achieve goals”. Before knowing the reasons of terrorism in Pakistan I think we should have clear vision on which factors it actually depends. Different philosophers and researchers define terrorism in different ways and collectively it depends on the following factors in the case of Pakistan which we will described below like weak leadership, lack of justice, corruption, return of Taliban, TTP, rise of Taliban and others groups activation

- During war in Afghanistan a large amount of refugees came to Pakistan and lived mostly in tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan especially after which terrorism spiked in Pakistan. So the number of Taliban also increased in Pakistan which results in the formation of TTP.
- afghan Taliban and TTP have similarities in their religion and culture so were stay connected and after the takeover even though afghan Taliban had promised that their land will not be used for terrorist activities but still after the takeover afghan Taliban helped TTP and released many TTP prisoners including their head Maulvi



Faqir Mohammad, so afghan Taliban did not fulfill their obligations which they took at the time of peace deal.

- After the spike of TTP attacks other terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Muhammad, Jaishe Hidar and Lashkar-e-Tayiba also activated because of similar Islamic jihadist ideology which were disconnected in 2014. (Noor, 2021)
- According to many experts' terrorism is often linked with corruption. Country like Pakistan also suffers from corruption that causes economic problems i.e. poverty that is the reason of terrorism. (Newman, 2006; Caruso & Schneider, 2011).
- Insurgency against military is one of the reason of terrorism in Pakistan. Pakistan had strained relation with Afghanistan due because it was a front –line ally of US in past and Pakistani military together with US launched counter-terrorism operations which enrage these terrorist groups.
- Weak leadership and illegitimate government also contributed under another reason of terrorism. Government lack of skills, vision and accountability increases the dissatisfaction among public that escalate insurgency.
- Feeling of deprivation, injustice and unequal opportunities causes hatred and revenge which results in terrorism. In Pakistan the under developed areas like FATA, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are the major spots of terrorist activities because of inequality among Pakistan's provinces. (Akhtar, 2021)

#### **How TTP became too powerful after Taliban acquisition of power**

The article also explores how instability in Afghanistan affects Pakistan and after Taliban regime TTP became too powerful and terrorism spike in Pakistan even when Afghan Taliban has their own economic crisis after US aid declined.

- ✓ Return of Taliban affected Pakistan because after US forces evacuation. Taliban considerate their victory which motivated Taliban and indirectly TTP in Pakistan because of their ideological ties. (Akhtar & Zahid Shahab Ahmed, 2023)
- ✓ After Taliban 2.0 control they empowered other extremist groups, means other terror groups are now under Taliban supervision.
- ✓ When Taliban returned and US troops gone it becomes easy for Taliban to provide TTP safe heavens. Because there were no military pressure and air strikes rate decreased so they become more powerful or in other words they regain their lost power
- ✓ After US evacuation power vacuum was formed in Afghanistan which militant groups filled quickly.
- ✓ Even though Afghan Taliban always denied their support to TTP but it is obvious they are with them because they don't take any action against TTP.
- ✓ Other terrorist groups other than TTP like Baloch insurgents, Jamat-ul-Ahrar and sectarian groups motivated and find it an opportunity that US forces moved from this region so, by reconciling they can now easily carry out their goals to rebuild themselves and construct border attacks. They see it as a "green signal" for their violent activities (after reconciling they become strong).
- ✓ Since 2022 Pakistan has economic and political crisis .so due to weak governance, number of attacks increased.
- ✓ After US forces withdrawal TTP and Taliban found more space to recognize in Afghanistan specially in regions like "kunar" and "nangarhar".



- ✓ When US forces were in Afghanistan TTP was also helping Afghan Taliban somehow because of their same ideology of “jihadism” and cultural ties to fought US forces back but now their focus is re-shifted toward its main goal “Pakistan” that is to cause instability in it. (Akhtar & Zahid Shahab Ahmed, 2023)
- ✓ After Taliban control they release many TTP prisoners which returned to Pakistan and resumed their terror activities one of the reason why terror attacks increased after Taliban regime (Ahmed, 2023).
- ✓ Moreover, Pakistan lost access to American drone support, surveillance and intelligence that made difficult for Pakistan to counter terror attacks.
- ✓ After US hasty evacuation they left behind a large amount of weapons which militant groups used to increase their terror activities.
- ✓ Clashes at durand line due to porous governance specially after US departure.
- ✓ Moreover, terror groups have “extortion networks” through which they force people to give money by threatening them which helps in rebuilding them economically.
- ✓ TTP members in Afghanistan were more trained because they fought 20-year insurgency after their return to Pakistan. the chances of chaos increased.
- ✓ Some foreign intelligence and hostile countries to Pakistan seeing it a better chance supports these terror groups economically and give them military assistance like Pakistan traditional enemy India who supports terror groups in Pakistan and countries like America and Israel supports India to instigate this vile act.
- ✓ During US strikes many leaders of terror groups often killed cause weak cooperation and governance in them.
- ✓ Before evacuation there were NATO, US and Pakistan working together to combat terror attacks but now it becomes difficult.
- ✓ After withdrawal militant groups not only reconcile but many people joined these groups due to motivation and inspiration.
- ✓ In 2022 Pakistani government and military held peace talk with TTP mediated by afghan Taliban. under this agreement Pakistan release TTP prisoners and allow them to return to their local areas (giving amnesty) which was the biggest mistake. Pakistan thought of peace that member would be disarmed and re integrate into society but they reconcile with TTP and end peace talk. (Ahmed, 2023)
- ✓ during US take off it blamed Pakistan for terrorism saying Pakistan support Taliban and represent negative character of Pakistan internationally due to which sanctions imposed on Pakistan, difficulty in getting loan from IMF, and countries withdraw their investment causing severe economic crisis and Terror groups find a way to exploit Pakistan.

This is how terror groups became more powerful that increased terror attacks and how afghan control effects Pakistan in many ways like increased attacks, casualties, political pressure, public fear and alleviation in tourism and investment.

#### **Downturn of US-Pak relations**

U.S. Pakistan relationship has been strained, particularly throughout and after War on Terror. The pro-Taliban policies of Pakistan was one of the basic causes of the mistrust as it was all chance to reverse Indian influence in Afghanistan (Yusuf, 2009; Rashid, 2012). This duality of

carrying out the American activities and apparently aiding Taliban forces gave rise to doubts and elicited the U.S. allegations of two-facedness.

The Patriot Act of 2001 aggravated the mood of people, specially, Muslim Pakistanis since it authorized tyrant treatment and profiling. Meanwhile, being the partner of the war on terror since the 9/11 attacks, Pakistan was constantly accused to be doing less, and the war more focused on its conflicts with India than with militancy.

Things got harsh under President Trump. U.S. reduced military assistance, stringent IMF funds and threatened to put Pakistan on blacklist of FATF on the basis of supporting the Taliban. Nevertheless, not yet ignoring the strategic position of Pakistan, the U.S. initiated Zalmay Khalilzad on numerous occasions to court Islamabad in the peace talks.

Skepticism by the U.S. escalated following the Taliban regime in 2021. Authorities were asking how Pakistan had allowed the Taliban back in and a congressional hearing pressurized the need to investigate Pakistan safe havens (Gen. Mark Milley). Certain senators in the United States demanded allegations to be imposed on Pakistan (Khan, 2021) and Secretary of State Blinken revealed his policy review. These were vehemently denied by Pakistan- Prime Minister Imran Khan negated the opinion of the U.S. Government as totally ignorant (NDTV, 2021; CNN, 2021) and blamed the U.S. of making Pakistan its hired gun.

There was also an essential trust deficit which occurred on the China factor. The U.S. fears CPEC and the BRI as it considers them as a threat to its interests and supremacy in the region. In their views, experts think that the post-withdrawal U.S. policy is turning out to feature more of the U.S.-Chinese strategic rivalry, which places Pakistan in critical spot as China is its close ally.

The cumulative consequences of these issues—accusations, aid halt, strategic divergence, and mutual wariness—has brought the U.S.–Pakistan relationship to one of its all-time low in decades, even though both sides recognize the need for ongoing engagement.

In re-entered presidency of Trump in 2024 again in start he blamed Pakistan for harboring terrorist but recently relations are improved in 2025 like US appreciated Pakistan role in Ceasefire talks. Moreover, US also thanks and appreciated Pakistan for its role in counter-terrorism specially after capturing ISIS-K member and also announce to release loan from IMF in June 2025.

Marko Rubio said “Pakistan’s role in counter-terrorism cooperation is constructive.”

But still Pakistan – US relations are unclear and they are engaging Pakistan strategically not because of deep trust between countries.

### **Analysis**

This article deeply analyzes Pakistan Afghanistan relations and questions the rise of terrorism and why even after taking steps against it doesn’t eradicate completely. So according to my analysis the reason is super power America it never wants stability in region never want any country dominate and becomes its competitors and specially in this region where big power like china is present which is a constant threat to its dominance and supremacy. so it tried to destabilize Pakistan which is being its neighbor country connected with it so, indirectly one of the main reason US never wants to become a declining super power.

Also America wants to destabilize Afghanistan which according to me it has already done by being leaving its troops for 20 years in Afghanistan. It has destabilized Afghanistan politically, economically, ideologically and culturally.

And America destabilize Afghanistan because of long border sharing of Afghanistan with Pakistan also because of religious and cultural similarities between the countries. So ultimately by creating chaos in Afghanistan it can destabilize Pakistan which is further connected with china so ultimately china is effected because it has large investment in Pakistan (CPEC).

While on the other hand US support India both politically and economically what happens due to this again Pakistan and china who want influence over this region will be effected being India's their enemy. So, US is making India strong as its own proxy.

Moreover, there are other reasons due to which terrorism is increased in Pakistan like border clashes with Afghanistan at Darund line, human trafficking, drug (narcotic) smuggling, border smuggling which effects Pakistan economy because there are no taxes over smuggled things also smuggled thing has more demand in market because they have less price.

Another question which we deeply analyzed in this article is why always negotiation always failed with Afghanistan.

Actually it has 3 decades old roots. Negotiations with Afghanistan fails because US prepared afghan mujahedeen in guerilla war and tried to show that communism is also dangerous for Islam and Pakistan wholly assist US in this. Pakistan and US ensured Afghanistan that they will help Afghanistan in enforcing Islamic sharia if they helped now in containing communism. Saudi a gave billions of dollars to Afghanistan as aid and also helped in obtaining official fatwa from Imam that "it is not un lawful to fight against Russia" western countries also promote this and gave heavy amount of troops and aid to Pakistan.

But once US achieved its goal it withdraws from Afghanistan without thinking about mujahedeen even for a moment and thus betrayed Afghanistan.

At first Pakistan supported Taliban but after 9/11 because of US pressure it again become the front line ally of US. After this time Taliban considered that Pakistan betrayed them in whole situation so they start targeted Pakistani military and civilians. And because Pakistan violate its promise with Afghanistan so they became Pakistan's enemy and in the end tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan escalated.

Even in the regime of Musharraf he restricts all the religious spots of Taliban in tribal areas and FATA where their imams motivate Muslim youth through their Islamic speeches., he tried to arrest some molvis, he tried to kill some and making other disappears as missing person. Earlier Taliban was against Pakistani state but after this they became extreme enemy of Pakistani military. This is the main reason behind why terrorism is not completely eradicate and why negotiations always fail. (Panhwar, 1947)

The one behind all this scenario was US every time after meeting its own goals it withdraws. Earlier in 1990s US achieved its goal by evacuating and breaking USSR and again in 2021 US achieved its goal by destabilizing Afghanistan economically, politically and ideologically leaving behind Pakistan responsible for all this.

In 2014 Donald trump said that US gave Pakistan \$33billion of aid even Pakistan always assist US. US is still suspicious regarding Pakistan that it has use American aid and military tools in supporting Taliban in war on terror.

In last by analyzing we may also conclude that even though US has achieved its goal but for being connected in the region and to contain china influence there might be still US providing military assistance and aid to Taliban for terrorist activities in Pakistan even after withdrawing its forces.

### **India's perspective**

This section of article examines the role of India in rise of terrorism in Pakistan being its traditional enemy.

Indian has always been urging international community to take a strong against Pakistan for supporting terrorism. for example, the financial Action task force has flag Pakistan direct role in sponsoring terrorism, and India has happily welcomed this move.

India also indirectly support Ethic separation insurgency group like BLA and provide them tools and aid to carry out their terrorist activities in Pakistan.

Now we will explore India's perspective regarding Pakistan and Afghanistan relations. After the fall of ashraf ghani's government India no longer operating in Afghanistan. So India will support proxy groups to destabilize Pakistan. It also manipulates the public opinion regarding Pakistan through media, cyber tactic and psychological impacts. It used every moment to spread wrong information and globally represents Pakistan's negative character. India tries to start fifth generation warfare.

For example, it is seen that New Zealand and England cricket teams cancel their visit to Pakistan and they were visiting after 18 years but just before their arrival they received a threat message so they cancelled to come. This is how India used hybrid war tactic to spread wrong perception of Pakistan.

The Baloch and Pashtun armed groups were supported by India now after the withdraw of US due to Taliban takeover and Indian interference they will again tried to create chaos in Pakistan because it is likely they will return to Pakistan and tried to manipulate like it is seen on social media that the Imam of Lal mosque in Islamabad in his videos directly threatening police.

India always take advantage whenever Taliban attacked Pakistan. It is notable here that India do so it can link Kashmir issue with terrorism, so it usually tried to suppress the Kashmir narrative on global level because of which Pakistan is more pressurized that it supports terrorism and provide them "safe heavens".

In recent 2025 May Indo-Pak war India tried to spread misinformation like on twitter trending false news #stop terrorist Pakistan and to prove their retaliate operation just saying "it's a counter-terrorism operation". So India's strategy is "information warfare + supporting terrorism" that is hybrid warfare hence trying to justify militant's aggression which results in rise of terrorism in Pakistan.

So, this article highlights that Pakistan should always be ready to confront India's propaganda. While the exit of India from Afghanistan is good for Pakistan in long term run because of less involvement of India in relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan but in short term by doing this propaganda and supporting militant's groups Pakistan has danger from India for which Pakistan should always be ready.

### **Power balance theory**

The Power Balance Theory suggests that the states associate their foreign policies as a way of protecting their sovereignty and national interests due to a change in power dynamics. In the case of Pakistan, the situation is multi-faceted since the evacuation of the U.S. in Afghanistan and emerging U.S.-China rivalry have provided an atmosphere of rivalry. The discussion suggests that instead of picking one of the powers, Pakistan should be balanced and practical when it is treating these two powers. Whereas the U.S. is currently treating Pakistan with strategic significance, Pakistan is currently intrigued in having a terms whole lot more founded on economic collaboration and international challenges such as climate change, data protection and epidemiology. Meanwhile, Pakistan has to maintain the strategic relationship with China specially through the project of CPEC and in ensuring the charge of the Afghanistan crisis. Due to the comeback of TTP, expanding tensions with India, and the fragile connection with the U.S. following the fall of Kabul, Pakistan must reposition its foreign policy with watchfulness. Its corresponding too close with any of the powers can result in the loss of the biasness of the other; therefore, balancing between China and U.S. is of great importance to regain the domestic balance and obtain lasting regional impact.

### **Recommendations**

- Pakistan should not take stringent steps by closing its border with Afghanistan completely because it will provoke anger in both countries because they have similarities in religion and culture and also damage Pakistan strategic role. instead they should make more checkpoints along the border and watch over the cross-border movements. (Noor, 2021) because taking these steps against terror groups will escalate anger in them so, these terror groups handled through negotiations with surveillance.
- Pakistan should approach diplomatic approach ((Jahangir, n.d.)
- Filled the trust gap between the masses of under developed areas alike FATA, KPK and Baluchistan by providing them more facilities to reduce terrorist groups influence over this region.
- Pakistan should stop relying completely on ne country instead it should work on “soft power”, along with diplomacy, and economic issues to fix its relation with Afghanistan (Shahab et al., 2023)
- Pakistan should implement its new foreign policy and should be based on non-interference because of past harsh experience
- Pakistan should now be vigilant while becoming ally specially after the experience of US but it does not mean that Pakistan should strained its relation with US but should reconcile US while also satisfying Afghanistan.
- Pakistan should reconcile with afghan government and make it a partner of CPEC.
- Pakistan can help afghan Taliban in recognizing their new government internationally, but in turn Afghanistan should also adopt zero tolerance policy about supporting terrorist group. While it's obvious Pakistan will not officially recognize afghan new government until any super power does.
- like previous government afghan don't recognize darund line border with Pakistan should solve this issue diplomatically by charge on refugees and cross- border movements and capturing anti- Pakistan activists.

- Pakistan should avoid taking sides between the rivalry of two countries instead it should prioritize its own national interests
- Pakistan should encourage afghan Taliban to make inclusive government.
- Pakistan should use “carrot and stick” strategy with Afghanistan that is provide cooperation and contribute in development projects but with firm action.

## Conclusion

Terrorism is associated with many factors like inequality and injustice but our main focus is rise of terrorism in Pakistan after Taliban regime which has deep roots of three decades earlier history where mujahedeen were prepared for war but US after achieving its own interest left Pakistan liable for all this and this is the core reason why after returning Taliban terrorism spiked in Pakistan how terrorist groups like TTP and BLA strengthened and what are the factors influencing rise of terrorism. Highlighting the ups and down relationship between US and Pakistan how US exploit Pakistan but still both countries need each other at strategic level that's why Pakistan should implement power balance theory because it can't completely break its ties with US. moreover, it infers that how Pakistan should make its relation good with afghans how it should keep the balance between the big power. Showing that Pakistan should adopt “soft power” policy with Afghanistan and resolve issues diplomatically because taking strict steps will result in more radicalization which in turn will uptick terrorism. Also Pakistan has changed its policy from geo politics to geo-economics. In last “soft power along with hard power works as a smart power for a state” (Noor, 2021).

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