

Journal of Sociology & Cultural Research Review (JSCRR)Available Online: <https://jscrr.edu.com.pk>Print ISSN: [3007-3103](#) Online ISSN: [3007-3111](#)Platform & Workflow by: [Open Journal Systems](#)**PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF
TERRORISM THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: CASE
STUDY OF AFGHANISTAN****Dr. Ayesha Rana**HOD, Department of International Relations, National University of
Modern Languages, Rawalpindiayasha.rana@numl.edu.pk**ABSTRACT**

The phenomenon of terrorism remains one of the most pressing threats to international security, particularly in regions like Afghanistan, where socio-political instability has created a breeding ground for extremist ideologies. This study explores the psychological and biological aspects underpinning terrorism, analyzing their implications for global security dynamics. The psychological dimension focuses on the cognitive, emotional, and sociocultural factors that drive individuals or groups toward radicalization and violent extremism. Key elements include identity crises, perceived injustice, trauma, and indoctrination, all of which contribute to the recruitment and mobilization of terrorist actors. Biological factors, often less examined in traditional counterterrorism studies, are equally significant. They include genetic predispositions to aggression, neurobiological responses to stress, and the influence of substance abuse on violent behaviors. Additionally, the weaponization of biological agents, such as pathogens, represents an emerging threat that could amplify the impact of terrorist activities. In the context of Afghanistan, the interplay of these psychological and biological factors is exacerbated by decades of conflict, poverty, and limited access to education and healthcare. This study employs Afghanistan as a case study to illustrate how these elements manifest within a complex socio-political and historical framework. The research highlights the role of terrorist organizations in exploiting psychological vulnerabilities and biological factors to perpetuate cycles of violence. It also evaluates the effectiveness of international counterterrorism strategies in addressing these underlying causes. By integrating psychological and biological perspectives, the study offers a comprehensive understanding of terrorism's multifaceted nature and proposes holistic approaches to mitigating its impact. These include enhancing mental health support in conflict zones, countering extremist propaganda, and strengthening global biological security frameworks.

Keywords: Terrorism, Psychological Aspects, Biological Aspects, International Security, Radicalization, Afghanistan, Extremism, Biological Weapons, Counterterrorism Strategies, Global Security

Historical & Definitional Aspects of Terrorism

The word terror derives from the Latin 'terrere' meaning to frighten. The widely rehearsed axiom of the Chinese strategist Sun Tzu (4th Century BCE) captures the essence of terror, '... kill one, and frighten ten thousand.' 'The Anatomy of Terror' confirms that history is full of examples of the use of terror in the pursuit of religious aims, material aims, ideological aims, state and political aims and in the current context, politico-religious aims.ⁱ There is a great controversy over how to designate freedom movements as a liberation struggle or call them as terrorists' movements. An act of certain

groups is freedom fight for some people and terrorism for others. Freedom fighters of Kashmir are terrorists for India while the forefathers of the Americans, who won freedom from England with armed assistance of France, are liberators. This phenomenon makes it difficult to agree on exact definition and meaning of the term "terrorism". Everyone explains the terrorism according to certain connotation and vested interests. To understand the phenomenon more profoundly, some definitions and versions of terrorism are mentioned below. Charles Townshend describes the US and British version of terrorism in his book as "The terrorism is the calculated use or threat of violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or intimidate governments or societies". Terror is easier to define than terrorism. Over 100 definitions of terrorism have been advanced. Former U.S. President George W. Bush signed the Anti-Terrorism Act on 26 October 2001. US Federal Statute defines terrorism as follows:

"The term terrorism means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience. It further defines international terrorism as: ... terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one county. The United States also classifies a terrorist group as... any group practicing, or that has significant subgroups that practice, international terrorism."ⁱⁱ

Terrorism is the violent tactics adopted by the terrorists to achieve their goals. The objective remains to get maximum results in a much shorter time. Easy access to weapons and widespread information about arms technology has allowed the terrorists to undertake these acts of violence of terrorism with little difficulty.

Theoretical Framework

The study has been conducted against the backdrop of biological & psychological theories. Peter A. Coming has noted that without an understanding of evolutionary and genetic aspects of behavior, we cannot fully comprehend the minor principles by which human life is organized and that is the relationship between living organism and the environment. It is well accepted that there is a relationship between the biology of human being with their behavior. All living things have certain fundamental requirements and out of those, human beings are the most complex. Their needs include a reasonably pure atmosphere, numerous nutritional requirements, fresh water, sleep, shelter and clothes, health care, physical security etc. Across the world greater, greater part of energies related to the economic activities are devoted towards the basic biological needs, which are decreasing with the increase in the population.ⁱⁱⁱ

Among human beings, apart from basic requirements of life, there are psychological requirements as well. Self-esteem, prestige and self-actualization are a few, to be mentioned. Political and economic

competition, and violence among human societies is traceable to the fact, that demand for things required for satisfactory biological and psychological needs always exceeds the supply.^{iv} The youth bulge theory as described by Gary Fuller, that an excess in especially young adult male population predictably leads to social unrest, war and terrorism, as when they do not find prestigious positions in their existing societies rationalize their impetus to compete by religion or political ideology.^v This theory further strengthens the argument of both the biological and psychological theories. There is asymmetry of wealth and with the increase in population and technological advancement the resources are getting scarce so the competition to grab the available resources has become intense. Thus, biological and psychological requirements play a very important role in human behavior.

The study seeks to find out how biological and psychological factors in a certain social environment led to terrorism. This is a major threat to international security. Afghanistan has been taken as a case study.

Biological Factors & Violence

Man is violent by nature. Sigmund Freud's says that "Man is embodied with an instinctive urge and appetite of attacking and subjugating others". The social circumstances and the learning process of the person also contribute to a person's behavior apart from the biological construct. If one grows and develops in the oppressed and violent society one can be easily attracted towards violence and terrorism. Jean Jacques Rousseau presents the theory of social learning he says that "human mind is like a blank sheet and whatever his society likes, paints on it". Violent societies lead to violence.^{vi}

Political and Economic deprivations are the main root causes of terrorism. When the political and economic rights of certain groups are not granted it chooses the suitable method of terrorism to show their anger. This deprivation encourages the effected groups to adopt violent ways to get their aspirations fulfilled. This leads to hopelessness. Lack of education and poverty are equally responsible for the increasing in terrorist activities.^{vii} The current insurgency in Afghanistan has complex issues such as poverty, unemployment, poor education, and ethnic differences. Famous philosopher Aristotle had stated that "Poverty is mother of Terrorism and Revolution".^{viii} Daniel Pipes says that "As long as there is poverty, inequality, injustice and repressive political systems, militant ... tendencies will grow in the world".^{ix}

Psychological Factors & Violence

Helplessness which leads to hopelessness is the psychological state that enhances terrorism in society. The society in which the people are ignored and must suffer from socioeconomic and political injustice provides conducive environment to promote terrorism. When the people and their

problem are neglected or kept aloof, they ultimately express their resentment in the form of violent behavior to attract the attention of the state and the people. We can witness that in the long-standing political disputes such as Palestine and Kashmir etc where the aspirations of the people were not heeded, resultantly some of them took to violence, and started militant movements. Similarly, in communist regimes where the people were not given their socio-political rights, they brought about even deadly revolutions.^x

In the present environment religious extremism is the major cause of terrorism. It does not mean that religion causes terrorism, but as being observed, religion is often used to justify bloodshed, including committing catastrophic acts of terrorism. Manipulating religious beliefs, mostly in the name of religion and please God, the illiterate people are falsely given the hope that they would directly enter the paradise, if they commit the assigned terrorist acts. Thus, lack of education and poverty has resulted in exploitation of masses by these terrorist groups. As evidence, we can observe that many of the terrorist movements are inspired by the religious ideology.^{xi}

Religious terrorism which is used as a synonym for Islamic extremism can be traced back to many religions if we look at the recent history, by the mid-1990s religious -based terrorism aimed at the general population as well as at symbols of government power, exploded throughout the world. Activists from virtually every religious tradition were involved, not only Islamic suicide bombers in the Middle East but also Christian militants in the United States, Jewish assassins in Israel, a terrorist Buddhist sect in Japan, the Tamils in Sri Lanka and radical Sikhs and Hindus in India.^{xii} In Islam the war is only allowed when it is in self-defense. Holy Quran upholds that "death of a single human being is a death of humanity".

Afghanistan: A Case Study

To study Afghanistan as a case in the backdrop of biological and psychological theories, an analysis of the past more than four decades of civil war and unrest will have to be undertaken. In 1973, Mohammad Daoud Khan overthrew his cousin King Zahir Shah and established a republic in Afghanistan. Over the next few years, Daoud's increasingly repressive regime lost what little support it had among the Afghan people while Moscow increasingly signaled a willingness to back a revolution by Afghan Communists. By 1977, the leadership of the Afghan Communist Party, the people's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (POPA), began to develop concrete plans to overthrow Daoud and was vigorously recruiting activists among the Afghan military; many of whom had been trained in the Soviet Union. Within a year, the POPA had expanded their support within the Army by 100 per cent. On 26 April 1978, Daoud ordered the arrest of top POPA leaders which led the communists to launch a coup.^{xiii}

The next day, Afghan Army units loyal to the communists attacked the presidential palace where Daoud and his family were killed. POPA leader, Nur Mohammad Taraki, became president and Hafizullah Amin became Deputy Prime Minister. The POPA coup was not a broad-based uprising, only about 600 troops took part in the main attack, and the new regime did not enjoy popular public support. As the regime tried to consolidate its power, it engaged in ever-increasingly repressive measures, including widespread executions. By 1979, there were widespread revolts throughout the country which culminated in a major uprising in Herat in March of that year which left 5,000 dead, including 100 Soviet advisers and their families. On 14 September 1979, Amin overthrew Taraki as political chaos spread throughout Afghanistan.^{xiv}

Afghanistan a Stage of Proxy War Between Former USSR & US Soviet involvement

On 24 December 1979, the invasion decision was made. The following day Soviet troops crossed into Afghanistan. Resistance was light and the invading force suffered a small number of casualties; only 20-30 killed and approximately 300 wounded. Amin was killed on 27 December when Soviet forces stormed the presidential palace and by the beginning of the New Year, the Soviets controlled all major Afghan cities. Despite being a super power and initial successes, Soviet Union started to lose its control in Afghanistan and almost a decade after invasion because of heavy casualties it was forced to withdraw. As per official record, the Soviets losses included 13,310 dead, 35,478 wounded and 310 missing during their eight-year occupation. However, the actual figures are much higher than these declared number.^{xv}

US Involvement

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan marked a clear change in US policy towards the Soviet Union. It led to the start of an active proxy war in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union. The U.S. actively assisted in recruiting the Mujahidin from all over the Muslim world. This militant force included paid mercenaries, volunteers and religious clerics as well. Starting from 1984, the U.S. financial assistance rose from \$122 million to \$250 million in 1985 and later as the insurgency heightened, it increased from \$ 470 million in 1986 to \$630 million by 1987. Beginning in May 1986, the CIA also provided the rebels with a range of military equipment, including Stinger missiles, and the necessary intelligence support such as satellite images and communications intercepts. The United State also worked with its allies, including Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to coordinate additional financial assistance. By the mid-1980s, non-US aid reached about \$25 million per month of \$300 million per year.^{xvi}

Osama Bin Laden was one of the prominent and motivated Arab Islamic warriors from Saudi Arabia, who traveled to Afghanistan, with the intent

of defending their fellow Muslim brothers from the Soviet occupation. Osama's enormous personal wealth and his ties to the Middle Eastern social elite made him an apple of eye for CIA.

"With the active encouragement of the CIA and Pakistan's ISI, who wanted to turn the Afghan jihad into a global war waged by all Muslim states against the Soviet Union, some 35,000 Muslim radicals from 40 Islamic countries joining Afghanistan's fight between 1982 and 1992. Tens of thousands more came to study in Pakistani Madrasahs. Eventually more than 100,000 foreign Muslim radicals were directly influenced by the Afghan jihad. ^{xvii}

With the withdrawal of Soviet Union from Afghanistan that followed its disintegration, the U.S. lost interest in the region which resulted into the hasty retrieval of support to the Mujahidin. This willful neglect of US plunged the country into a decade long civil war, that led to the Afghan society falling into the hands of extremist elements, that included the Muslim religious hardliners and were already an integral and historical component of domestic political landscape.

Terrorism Thrive in Afghanistan: The Psychological Aspect

Ignorance, isolation, illness, violence, and social upheaval have produced a lost generation in Afghanistan. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the subsequent brutal military campaign resulted in one of the biggest humanitarian crises of modern history, with over five million refugees fleeing to Pakistan and Iran and another two million displaced internally. The massive migration of Afghan population, of which three quarters were women and children, was a consequence of Soviet occupying forces and the pro-Soviet regime and widespread destruction of homes and livelihoods. Leaving Afghanistan devastated as one of the poorest nations of the world. Average life expectancy was very low, and mortality among children, who represent almost 42% of its 26 million population, was extremely high. Most of the civilian and child casualties of the prolonged war in Afghanistan were the direct result of landmine injuries. ^{xviii} Afghanistan had the highest rate of landmine injuries and the highest mortality. In a gruesome demonstration of specific targeting of children by the Soviets, many of the mines deployed were shaped as colorful toys. Despite attempts at demining, there were still close to 10-15 million mines in Afghanistan in 1993. Three to four percent of the population of Afghanistan was estimated to be disabled, of whom only a minority had access to treatment. ^{xix}

A survey of Afghan refugee women and children in Quetta found that over 80% of children were unregistered and child mortality was 31% (112/366 births). Of those who survived, 67% were severely malnourished, with malnutrition increasing with age. These large segments of vulnerable populations remained entirely dependent on assistance from UN agencies and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). The psychological trauma

and societal distress experienced by Afghans remained high. Many suffered post-traumatic stress because of witnessing or experiencing parental loss in war. Political repression and state terror had also resulted in significant psychological impact on this already distressed population. A landmark survey by UNICEF on the effect of war on children aged 8-18 years in Kabul indicated that 41% had lost one or more parents because of the conflict, and over half had witnessed torture or violent death. Four and half decades of war in Afghanistan have left the country devastated, its population depleted, and the survivors physically and mentally exhausted. The numbers are devastating: 1.7 million dead, 2 million injured or maimed, 5 million driven from their homes. As one refugee woman put it "We all have the same story, the story of losses."^{xx} Over 90% of the children interviewed expressed the fear of dying in the conflict. A particularly gruesome practice of encouraging children to witness public amputations and executions has an enormous impact on impressionable minds. Over 80% of the children interviewed felt they could not cope with events and that life was not worth living. The illegal recruitment of child soldiers by all warring factions snatched the childhood of children. While such events can lead to considerable psychological trauma and distress, they may also divert a young mind to violence. The average Taliban are a product of the same cycle of violence and social upheaval experienced from early childhood. This "lost generation" is likely to breed many more unless action is taken to bring the cycle of violence to an end.^{xxi}

Terrorism Thrive in Afghanistan: The Biological Aspect

Economic violence brings suffering and death. Thousands of children die needlessly each day due to malnutrition or lack of access to clean drinking water and basic medical care.^{xxii} According to former US President Bush, "poverty doesn't cause terrorism", he acknowledged that "persistent poverty and oppression can lead to hopelessness and despair". He added that "when governments fail to meet the most basic needs of their people, these failed states can become heavens for terror," giving Afghanistan as an example.^{xxiii} Due to the ravages of such ongoing civil war, Kabul remained without municipal water and electricity for quite long. Trade was frequently blockaded and subjected to extortionate 'taxes' by local power holders. Nearly everywhere a new generation was emerging with minimal education in a land infested with landmines, due to which thousands of civilians continue to be killed or maimed. The UN reports that the socio-economic conditions of the population were amongst the worst in the world. The investment into schools, roads and hospitals had been reduced to near insignificance post-Soviet withdrawal. Literacy rates were at an extreme low, with estimates showing that they had plummeted to as low as 4 per cent for women. Healthcare was rudimentary at best, with many being without access to even the basics. Every year thousands of children died

from malnutrition and respiratory infections. Irrigation systems and the agricultural sector have been neglected and destroyed.^{xxiv} Today's Afghanistan is plagued by a perpetual orgy of destruction, impoverishment and repression. Poverty is now endemic. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Millions of Afghans have little or no access to food through commercial markets, and their access to food through self-production has been severely undermined by drought. The purchasing power of most Afghans has been seriously eroded by the absence of employment. About 85 percent of Afghanistan's estimated 21.9 million people are directly dependent on agriculture. The agricultural infrastructure has been severely damaged due to war and irrigation facilities are in urgent need of rehabilitation. Afghanistan still has one of the worst records on education in the world. UNICEF estimates that only 4-5 per cent of primary aged children receive a broad-based schooling - for secondary and higher education, the picture is worse. A whole generation of children is losing out; the deprivation of biological requirements is contributing into a whole new generation of violent people.^{xxv}

US War Against Terrorism Post 9/11

The surge of terrorism from Afghanistan has its roots in cold War circumstances. Unorganized and less armed at first, Mujahedeen began receiving substantial assistance in the form of weapons and training from the US, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and other foreign countries. Many radical Islamic organizations and thousands radical Muslims from across the world particularly Middle East, North Africa and recruits from Pakistani Deobandi madrassa's, of the border areas came and continued resistance in different parts of Afghanistan in the name jihad to the Afghan war. These Mujahideen united under a new name "Taliban" in 1994, got control of country. These same Mujahidin are now labeled as terrorists. Osama the former mujahid and later the alleged terrorist came to Afghanistan as the country had become a perfect place for his activities. The psychologically and biologically crippled people due to years of suffering became easily available for recruitment. The imposition of sanctions on Afghanistan along with missile attacks in the wake of the US embassy blasts in East Africa in 1998 attributed to Bin Laden,^{xxvi} had not only failed to affect the Taliban but had served primarily to devastate the Afghan population even more. Indeed, "The US engineered a punishing Iraq-style embargo of war-ravaged Afghanistan at a time when many of its 18 million people were starving and homeless,"^{xxvii} observes the *Toronto Sun*. The London *Guardian* reports that "When the UN imposed sanctions a year ago on the Taliban because of their refusal to hand over bin Laden, the suffering in Afghanistan increased. It was ordinary Afghans who have suffered. The real losers were Afghanistan's women, who had been forbidden by the Taliban from working."^{xxviii} The 9/11 attacks added to the misery of Afghan population

because of the presence of the perpetrator of attacks, Osama bin Laden. The country once again flashed into lime light, when in 2001 US launched war against terrorism in Afghanistan, as the ruling regime Taliban refused to hand over Osama bin Laden. The attacks of September 2001 forced events in the area, particularly the heavy engagement of NATO and the U.S.^{xxix} The shift in US policy in Afghanistan from pro-Taliban to anti-Taliban is once more rooted in America's own attempt to secure its strategic and economic interests.^{xxx}

President Bush and his allies claim that their goal in the war against terrorism is security for all. But people of conscience must ask if war is the best way of attaining security, and if terrorism is the biggest threat to security many people face. How far does this war enhance the security of the world's 1.2 billion people who live on less than a dollar a day and cannot adequately meet their most basic needs? Isn't this war an attempt to provide national security for wealthy nations, not human security.^{xxxi} This was a war against the people of Afghanistan. The U.S. and British are dropped thousands of bombs and firing missiles on homes, schools, mosques, hospitals and villages throughout the country. 1,000-pound to 15,000-pound bombs were dropped deliberately targeting every major town and rural area. In a village Chowkar-Karez, dozens of civilians were killed. Wazir Akbarhan hospital in Kabul was bombed on the first day and 13 women were killed in the gynecology department. 200 people were killed in the hospital in Herat. Red Cross facilities were bombed twice in Kabul. Cluster bombs—one of the most terrifying and deadly of the U.S. Weapons were used. Hundreds of small bomblets packed with razor shrapnel were dispersed at super-high velocity over a wide area, ripping into people with devastating damage. Cluster bombs were prohibited by the Geneva Convention, because of their indiscriminate nature (Protocol I, Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, Article 51).^{xxxii} A report from the Sydney Morning Herald (Oct. 26, 2001) quotes Dan Kelly, head of UN mine clearing in Afghanistan: "These bomblets can explode if the villagers so much as touch them. It is a very violent death. You don't get arms and legs blown off like you do with anti-personnel mines, you get killed."^{xxxiii} Civilians were being deliberately targeted throughout the country. Another deplorable U.S. tactic was repeat bombing to kill rescue personnel. In Jalalabad, the Sultanpur mosque was bombed during prayer. As neighbors dug out 17 victims who were trapped, the plane returned to bomb minutes later, killing 120 people.^{xxxiv} Cluster bombs, depleted uranium ammunition, 15,000-pound "Daisy cutter" fuel-air explosives: this was the terror being unleashed by the biggest military power in the world against one of the poorest and most underdeveloped countries in existence.^{xxxv} Three years since the end of GWOT and the US forces left Afghanistan, the country is still facing immense problems, despite the tall

claims of the sole super power. According to latest surveys the average life expectancy in Afghanistan is 43 years. Per capita income is \$180 per year. Only 13 percent of the entire population has access to drinking water. Barely 12% of the population has sanitation coverage. Literacy is only 20 percent. The infant mortality rate is a shocking 247 deaths per 1,000 live births. On average, 16,000 mothers die in childbirth every year, one out of every 17 births, the second worst maternal mortality rate in the world. It's not just the bombs that killed the people. The dislocation and chaos of the war result in huge numbers of Afghan people dying from hunger, cold and disease.^{xxxvi} The war against terrorism went on despite the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011. US placed a puppet regime to counter the Taliban. The so-called Afghan forces were also there, but in reality the different Afghan Presidents were restricted to Kabul under the protection of US forces as they did not have the control over the country beyond Kabul. Under such circumstances violence or terrorist activities got strongly rooted in Afghan society resulting in another generation of violent people. The increasing numbers of Pakistani and Afghan civilian deaths and by military actions of US army in the region have fueled anti-American sentiment.

Indian Active Role in Afghanistan

In the war with the Taliban in Afghanistan, India has emerged as an important player. The Indians are trying to dominate or control the new Afghanistan. One of George W. Bush's boasts in foreign policy was that he had made India, which was longtime critic of America, into a friend by giving it an unprecedented bilateral nuclear arrangement with the U.S., and by projecting India as China's democratic challenger in Asia. Indian diplomacy is active in Central Asia, in the countries that are the homelands of Afghanistan's Uzbek and Tajik ethnic minorities, rivals of the Pathans and among whom the Taliban political-religious movement developed during the 1990s. Pakistan considers this an effort to strategically outflank and encircle Pakistan. India remained one of the main sources of aid for the U.S.-supported Afghan governments during WOT. Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai visited to New Delhi, where he received \$450 million to add to the \$750 million already promised by India. Indian companies and workers actively participated in highway building and hydroelectric projects in Afghanistan. India had opened several consulates in Afghanistan.^{xxxvii}

Spillover Effects in Pakistan

The Afghanistan-Pakistan border area comprises of armed tribes, rugged hills and mountains, charismatic leaders, smuggling, weak central government control, and warfare. Much of the population is rural, subsisting on irrigated crops and livestock, while the towns support small shopkeepers. Overall, poverty is endemic, and even the most well-off towns

are far from wealthy. Today, both sides of the border suffer from an active insurgency and significant influence from more radical strains of Islam. The region is also at the lowest rank in literacy rate and availability of medical and health services. Thousands of Afghan orphans grew up never knowing about their country, parents and other relatives. According to Jeri Laber of Human Right Watch that hundreds of thousands of youths, who knew nothing of life but the bombings that destroyed their homes and drove them to seek refuge over the border, were being raised to hate and to fight, in the spirit of Jihad, a holy war that would restore Afghanistan to its people.^{xxxviii} They are now Taliban. In the Tribal Areas Taliban guerrilla and Al-Qaeda operatives keep on moving back and forth due to open border. They are preparing suicide bombers in these training camps and have engaged in many types of destructive activities; kidnappings, suicides attacks, target killing, sectarian clashes and bombing of state infrastructures and people. These terrorist activities have completely paralyzed local people and badly disturbed their business and social life activities. Many jihadi organizations of soviet times have joined al Qaeda for a common war. Groups like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi LeJ, Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), Laskar-e-Taiba (Len), and Jaish-e-Mohammad which serve Al Qaeda to carry out operations in areas where Al Qaeda faces difficulty in operating directly; allied to Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan TTP the primary Taliban umbrella group in Pakistan. These forces have been responsible for attacks against Pakistan in Lahore, Islamabad, Chakwal, Multan, and Karachi. Drug money and foreign financing is the main source of funds apart from many local sources kidnapping, looting etc. This made the situation worse in FATA and settled areas of NWFP.^{xxxix} India taking advantage of the whole situation and its consulates along the border in Afghanistan is heavily funding and arming the elements to destabilize Pakistan. Pakistan is blamed for taking a u turn on Taliban, while the world has taken U turn labeling the previous Mujahidin as present terrorists. Pakistan has merely fallen between a pit and a pendulum due to its geographic proximity.

Conclusion

The study clearly proves that all the psychological and biological factors discussed above stand applicable in the Afghanistan's case study as well as in the border tribal areas of Pakistan due to spillover effect. Afghanistan is a classic example of manifestation of terrorism or violent behavior due to more than four decades long exposure to violence, suppression, ignorance and acute economic deprivation along with prolong displacement. This is a real world where there are no norms and ethics. States pursue their interests. Afghanistan has been a theater of Superpower involvement for the last forty-five years which also include the US abandonment post-Soviet disintegration and post GWOT. In the US war against terrorism in Afghanistan the roles of the two countries US and Russia were reversed as

the US was physically involved while Russia was active to contain US influence. It appeared that during the Soviet invasion the mujahidin were terrorists for Soviet Union and then in GWOT they became terrorists for US, while their propaganda was that they are fighting against another invasion. This war against terrorism was waged to decrease the miseries of the Afghani population, and to liberate the people from the Taliban tyrants and Al Qaeda terrorist. The war lost its course. The citizens remained deprived and if they were lucky enough to survive the crossfire, they suffered poverty due to the lack of opportunities for livelihood which were almost absent because of long drawn war. A twenty-year long war against terrorism has provided a new breeding ground of terrorists because of the fresh number of orphans who are displaced and illiterate as well. The child who was one year old in 2001 is now twenty-three years old, whether he is still living in Afghanistan or has sorted refuge in border areas of Pakistan, what good war against terrorism has provided for him. Such a long exposure to violence and war has acute psychological and biological impact on people who live in a violent and deprived environment for a long time. To address the issue of terrorism the psychological and biological root causes need to be addressed. For that states will have to look beyond their interests, which appears to be impossible in this real world, resultantly weaker states will keep on becoming the fodder of Superpowers in Great Games.

The broad long term unbiased policy in South Asia can facilitate the development of a sustainable peace. Similarly, US needs to focus to the larger issues of social, economic and political inequality policy from counter-insurgency programs in South Asia.^{x1} The military solution that was used to counter the terrorism has made the situation worse. It has grown number of concerns about violations of the human rights in the form of collateral damages, detention, convictions, harassments and created problems instead of solving the issues. The political and economic options probably will generate better results. Development Plan is the right strategy. The aid should be used in capacity building, livelihoods, agriculture, micro and small and medium enterprises, health, education and infrastructure development. To develop infrastructure for electricity, roads, hospitals, water supply, schools, and employment generating projects can play a major role in promoting long-term economic development and stability. On the political front there is a need to have coalition government in Afghanistan which would then represent all the factions. Now Northern Alliance is overwhelmed by Taliban. The result is political unrest. The Pushtoon majority must be taken onboard for political reasons. Whenever a majority is subjugated by minority, violence is part and parcel of the whole scenario. US should keep options of dialogue open with the Taliban which are dominantly Pushtoon. Twenty years down the road facing an active

war, the Americans war against terrorism, the region as well as the population, has suffered badly psychologically and biologically. The long exposure to violence, poverty, hunger, deprivation, and extreme illiteracy has resulted in the quagmire that the region finds itself in today. Afghanistan's geostrategic position and being in the nuclear neighborhood, has made it a boardgame for the regional players as well as the superpowers. The countries involved are playing 'game' according to their own vested interests, which had led the analysts to call it as "New Great Game".^{xli} The divergent interests which were under play behind the cover of war against terrorism had further intensified terrorism not only in the region but also at the global level. This is a huge threat to the regional as well as international security. The greater liberty of action to non-state actors, terrorism has become an international phenomenon. If real solutions to this menace are to be found, these essentially fall in the political and economic rehab, rather than unilateral focus on military options and whole hog military operations.

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