

## **Implications of War on Terrorism on Nationalism In Pakistan**

**Dr. Sajjad Ahmad**

*Visiting Lecturer*  
*Department of Political Science*  
*Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan*  
*Sajjadmaitla90@gmail.com*

**Dr. Qamar Abid Hussain**

*Visiting Lecturer*  
*Department of Pakistan Studies*  
*Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan*

**Dr. Safdar Hussain**

*Regional Program Manager*  
*Quaid-i-Azam Academy for Educational Development*  
*Multan*

### **Abstract**

*After 9/11 great change took place in the world. US governed declared Pakistan a main non-NATO ally in the war against terrorism. It made Pakistan suffer from political instability, insecurity and badly deep impact on nationalism. In the matter of arresting terrorists Pakistan helped USA logistically. In spite of doing all USA was continuously building pressure on Pakistan by saying 'Do more'. FBI and Pakistan police handed over 346 out of 442 foreign terrorists to USA. The reaction was so possible against Pakistan because of its role against terrorism, Almost 3599 Pakistan including 597 security personnel and 1523 civilians were killed in 2007. 56 suicide attack took place in the same year. Majority of Pakistani people did not support the war against terrorism. It caused anti-state sentiments in the mind of the people. The murders of Akbar Bugti and Benazir Bhutto and Bajour Attack also made great disharmony in Pakistan by breeding ethnic nationalism in its every province. It harmed Pakistan's nationalism severely besides the war against terrorism. Pakistan was facing sectarian violence, sectarian Jahadi groups: Sunni Tehreek, Sipah-i-Sahaba and Tehreeq-e-Fiqh Jafria were in action causing great*

*Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, Dr. Qamar Abid Hussain & Dr. Safdar Hussain*

*damage to the country Pakistan. The operation of Lal Masjid by Pak Army added fuel to the fire and terrorism spread in every part of the country. Pakistan's clear policy against terrorism helped lessen the great effect of terrorism vividly. The present paper is to focus the consequences of the role of Pakistan in war against terrorism over nationalism.*

**Keywords:** War, Terrorism, Nationalism, Pakistan, Ethnic

### **Introduction**

In the world, 9/11 made a great change in everything. After 9/11 Pakistan became US ally in the war against terrorism and was standing in the frontline. People said that the event “Catalyzed flurry of new counterterrorism polices and initiatives at both national and international level” (Zimmermann, 2007, p. 07). After 9/11 Pakistan was made to give its cooperation to hunt down the terrorist who were hidden in Afghanistan. The international community acknowledged the participation of Pakistan in the war. Pakistan's President was declared as a courageous leader by US leader (Pakistan and the War on Terrorism, 2004, pp. 47-53). Pakistan was given the status of ‘Key ally’ and then was made ‘major non-NATO ally. (Pakistan and the War on Terrorism, 2004)

To perform its role in war and to end terrorism from the region “the Pakistan government took initiatives against terrorism, extremism and sectarianism using different means. The country cooperated with the international community to fight terrorism”. (Wasim, 2004), Pakistan had to pay high price for its role in the form of deteriorating crisis in the insecurity environment, the domestic political system and bad impacts on the other different aspects like nationalism. The paper discusses at this issue. Nationalism, may be explained as “modern emotional fusion and exaggeration of two very old phenomena – nationality and patriotism” (Perkins, Internatioal Relation, 1998, p. 20). Some writers opinioned that it had a great importance, as it had often given the motivation for the same action by the people of the state. (Perkins, International Relation, 1998, p. 71) So this study was focusing on the implications of Pakistan's role in war against terror on nationalism.

### **Importance of the Issue**

Nationalism is the great element in constructive potentialities of modern state. (Perkins, International Relation, 1998) Role of Pakistan in the war against terrorism threatened the constructive abilities of nationalism and led to severely negative impact on nationalism. The importance of the study is present in the vitality of nationalism in the survival of a state. "The nationalism gives the state unity and effectiveness; it contributes the spiritual quality wish and makes the state a going concern. Without it the state becomes weak and decadent, a potential victim to more vigorous states". (Perkins, International Relation, 1998)

### **Aim of the Study**

The ultimate aim of this paper is discussing the impact of Pakistan's role on nationalism. The hypothesis of the research shows the same aspect more specifically the causation of anti-state sentiments due to outer crisis, which is the broader aspect of the study.

### **Research Questions**

The significant research questions will be as below:

- Is US-led war on terror posing a considerable threat to the process of nationalism in Pakistan is the role that Pakistan played in war against terrorism?
- Has it had an impact on ethnic nationalism in Pakistan?
- Does the element of religious binding play any role in the perseverance of nationalism?
- Does the element of religious binding have failed in preserving nationalism from the impact of Pakistan's role in war on terror as a front state?

### **Historical background**

Pakistan is not the new ally of US. Since the birth of Pakistan, they have good relationship. US has always used Pakistan for his own interest in this region. The Afghan war fought by Pakistan for US interest. Almost after three-decade 9/11 took place, it changed the entire face of the world. This incident made US seek Pakistan's help to get success in the war against terrorism. Pakistan supported US fully. Pakistan handed over most wanted terrorists to US, sealed off the western border, let US make two navel and three air basis and use Pakistan's air space. In spite of doing all, Pakistan had to be pressured to do more. (Military

Technology, 2004, pp. 47-53) At least, Pakistan had to take action against the terrorists within its own boundaries. Swat, Waziristan, Wana and different other areas of Pakistan faced combing operation to find out the terrorists. It brought horrible results y triggering hatred and revenge in the minds of those persons who were damaged.

### **Methodology**

The methodology will be involving two steps; the first is to discuss the nationalism after Pakistan's role in the war against terrorism. The second is show the impact of Pakistan's role on nationalism. Then the paper will deal with the answers of the research questions which have to be addressed in it. The research design of this study adopts descriptive mode.

### **Limitations and Scope**

The study has limited scope which only shows the impact of the role of Pakistan on its nationalism in the war against terrorism. The present study is having limitation due to short time and resources, yet it has been tried fully to address all the major issues related to the aim of the present research.

### **Theory of Social Transformation**

The theory of social transformation is the basic theory which will help conduct this research and make the hypothesis of this research. Social transformation means the process of social change that can be defined as the phenomenon of social change that causes the significant effect on the already found social structure including manifestation and consequences of such structures embodied in values, norms and cultural symbols and products.

### **Role of Pakistan in War Against Terrorism**

In the war against terrorism Pakistan as a frontline state has been supposed to have played an effective and important role. Since March 2002 a large number of terrorist who were wanted by the US were arrested by the Pakistani forces. Abu Zubaydah was killed Ramzi bin al –Shibh was apprehended. Nine suspected al-Qaeda workers were arrested in a joint operation of Pakistani FBI and police. Khalid Mohammad a key terrorist was also arrested. Bush expressed his “deep appreciation and gratitude to President Musharraf and to the government of Pakistan” for the “fine efforts” in crushing terrorism. (Kronstadt, Pakistan-US Terrorism Cooperation, 2003) In mid-March, intelligence

agency of Pakistan claimed (Kronstadt, Pakistan-US Terrorism Cooperation, 2003) that it had captured 442 foreigners involved in suspected activities and to handed over 346 of them to US custody.

Pakistan showed strong commitment to end the spread of terrorism Pakistani President vowed to finish the terrorists (Kronstadt, Pakistan-US Terrorism Cooperation, 2003). The President of Pakistan further said that “Pakistan will continue to fight extremism and terrorism in holistic manner as curbing these menaces is crucial to long term national security and economic development”. This role however brought great loss to the country in the form of resentful sentiments and extremism in those areas where the military was cracking down against the local Taliban, there was great unrest in Baluchistan and NWFP. Direct missile attacks by the US troops took innocent natives lives. This collateral damage resorted severe reaction and hatred in the minds of common people against the state.

### **Nationalism**

Nationalism is in fact a movement according to it nation-state is considered to be supreme for the cultural aspirations and economic realization of social of public. Nationalism is characterized by a feeling of community among a people, based on religion, language and common descent. Hans Kohn said “Nationalism is the most important state of mind, an act of consciousness” (Norman, Internaitnal Relaitons , 1998, p. 20). However, Amold Toynbee’s work *A Study of History* gives some references of crimes which have been committed in the name of nationalism during the last 300 to 400 years (Norman, Interntional Relations, 1998, p. 21) . So it proves that nationalism can be constructive or destructive for a nation.

### **Pakistani Nationalism**

Pakistani people see nationalism in religious, cultural and political expression of patriotism pride in their heritage and history of their country and vision to see it as a great country in future. Ethnic and religious influences which make national consciousness. Pakistani nationalism includes seems to be threatened because of the role of its war against terrorism by US. The present study will focus on this issue.

### **Impact of Pakistan's Role in War Against Terrorism on Nationalism**

Pakistan's role in the war against terrorism by US has put strong effects in its different sectors. Though Pakistan gained diplomatic and economic benefits yet terrorist attacks increased dangerously which almost made the law enforcing agencies and security of the citizens ineffective. The security situation in the year 2007 in the country was the worst almost "3599, innocent people were killed". Pakistan had to face 56 suicide attacks in the same year (South Asia Intelligence Review " Pakistan Assessment 2008", 2011). On 10<sup>th</sup> July military operation was started at the Red Mosque. It worsened the condition of the country. Then Pakistan became the second country of the world which faced the most suicide attacks after Iraq. Then the terrorist had made a strong position in Pakistan. Lisa Curtis said that majority of Pakistanis thought the war against terrorism was an American conspiracy against Islam and that the country's bad condition was due to supporting USA and it would harm not benefit Pakistan. (Curtis, 2007, pp. 2-3). They also said that the war against terrorism produced terrorism itself in their country.

### **Threat to Nationalism**

The two concepts have a definitely strong linkage with each other. Pakistan's role in the war against terrorism has bred anti-state sentiments in the minds of the Pakistanis. Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman declared that the government of Pakistan would lose the tribal areas in the coming future. He also said that people of the tribal areas were being against Pakistan Army. (Hussain, Tribals fuming after Bajaur attack , 2006). The killing of Akbar Bugti in Kohlu in Baluchistan was another dangerous incident which opened the door for violent protests and massive disturbances in Baluchistan and Sindh (Iqbal, 2006). The political leadership was of the opinion that it would threaten the federation of Pakistan. Baloch Liberation Army stood for the right of independence with the concept of greater Baluchistan (Shahzad, 2006). This role of Pakistan bred disharmony in the country and threw Pakistan into the sea of trouble by threatening its nationalism and creating anti-state sentiments in the minds of a large number of people in Pakistan.

### **Ethnic Nationalism**

Pakistan consists of a heterogenic ethnic population (Mazzari, 2002). Any military operation against any person or group of persons in any province or part of Pakistan causes to great danger against nationalism so the operation by Pakistan Army was affecting the country negatively have arson as it is mentioned earlier in the study. The assassination of Benazir Bhutto was another event which bred dishonor between Sindh and the Punjab provinces and threatened the concept of nationalism. The province, Punjab has the most population of the other three provinces and therefore it dominates the resources of the country. This fact allows the three provinces to harbor anti Punjab sentiments. Rising tension sin Sindh, rebellion in Baluchistan and military actions in WFP have damaged the concept of nationalism severity. Due to the deep controversies in Pakistan, its nationalism is in great danger all the time.

In Balochistan which has the biggest area and is the poorest province of Pakistan, anti-Pakistan sentiments are the strongest due to the said reasons and especially the army actions against ethnic rebels. In response the rebels attack energy infrastructure off and on to stop the supply of energy to Punjab. In KPK military operation is going on against the terrorist in the tribal areas. It makes Pashtun nationalism manifest itself. Discontentment in Sindh and Sectarian issues in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir are damaging the concept of nationalism of Pakistan. (Sushant, 2005).

### **Sectarian Violence**

Outside the boundaries of Pakistan, its role in the war against terrorism is very limited. It makes the incidents of sectarian violence les important. Since 2006 affecter killing of some important persons, an increase in violence has been observed. In a report it was disclosed that in 2006 almost 201 people were killed and 349 people were badly injured. While in 2007 441 people were killed and 630 people received injuries in 341 incidents. (Review, South Asia Intelligenece Pakistan Assessment 2008, 2011). The examples of the sectarian Jihadi groups were the Sipah-e-Mohammad, Sunni Sipah-I-Sahaba and the Shia's Tihrek-e-Jaferia (Haleem, 2003, p. 469). The military operation against Red Mosque was considered as a state act

against violence in the conduct of war against terrorism and was a part of the country's counter terrorism policy but majority of the Pakistanis disliked the operation and considered it to be equivalent to the operation done against Bengali citizens of East Pakistan in 1971 (Kiewso, 2008, p. 13). In nature violence in Kurram is local and sectarian. A report indicates that in Kurram agency some foreigners as the members of Tehrik-e-Talban an Al-Qaeda are living in the guise of local persons and due to it persistent violence has gripped the area.

#### **Anti-State Sentiments**

Military operation against terrorism caused hostility and mistrust in the minds of those who had to face damages directly. Even after Bajaur operation in a public rally the leader of Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Muhammadi ordered the audience to make itself be ready for conducting suicide attacks and accept martyrdom then he asked the people in the rally if they gave their consent to the cause almost, 10000 people said that they were ready (Hussain, Tribals Fuming after Bajaur Attack, 2006). It reflects clearly that the people were badly resentful and rejected the process of the government to eliminate terrorism in its own way. The sentiments were found in the areas of KPK and Balochistan. The more Pakistan is involved in the war against terrorism. The more public showed its reaction. It could cause separation of tribal areas and it damaged the concept of nationalism.

#### **Factor of Religious Binding**

The factor of religious binding (Muslim brotherhood) did not play its role successfully in the country. During the war against terrorism no discrimination was made, and action was taken against all sects. In response, suicidal attacks were conducted against the security personnel and even against innocent people.

#### **Government Policies to Conserve Nationalism**

The Government adopted very clear policy that any illegal acts of violence, extremism and terrorism would be handled with iron hand. The slogan (Sub Say Pehlay Pakistan) first priority Pakistan was the most important policy of the government. This slogan played its useful role to save unity of the country.

Musharraf in his era promoted the slogan of 'Pakistan the first' He strengthened the federation, removed disharmony amongst provinces and got national cohesion restored to a large extent.



But still the country has to do more to get the required results. Musharraf was greatly confident to have inter –provincial harmony at least. (Musharraf, 2002).

### **Conclusion**

Analysis of the available material used in conducting the research study confirm that Pakistan took severe actions to crush terrorism to make the process of nationalism successfully, but Pakistan is facing great losses which have long lasting results. It is irrefutable fact that the role of Pakistan to crush terrorism has been highly praised and acknowledged by the world. But still Pakistan has its negative implication. If the leadership makes effective plans to conserve the process of nationalism in its real sense, Pakistan surely can come out if the persistent troubles of different issues faced by the country. Now it has become essential for the country to stop ethnicity, ethnic nationalism and sectarian violence. The message of Islam to all Muslims to be united on one platform has been neglected badly. The separation of East Bengal is one of the examples of lack of harmony and union. Yet being optimistic in any disappointing situation gives way positively to find brighter side of the issue. If a country has to play a role in international politics, it must protect its own identity with honor pride and dignity, which must never be hurt in any situation.

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