

**IDEOLOGICAL REPRESENTATION OF
PAKISTAN AS A POST 9/11 EFFECT: THE
CASE STUDY OF “IN THE LINE OF FIRE”**

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Abstract:

Research explores the post effects of 9/11 incidence on the global image of Pakistan, enlightened by the views of Pervez Musharraf. In his memoir, he has presented the intense relations of Pakistan with Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and United States before and after the flabbergast incident of twin towers. Study inspects and undrapes the image of *Al-Qaeda*, their invasion through *Pak-Afghan* border and the driving force behind their deliberate brazen acts of terror. The alliance of Pakistan with United States had clear objectives of *self-interest* and *self-preservation*. The forte of Pak-US co-operation was the elimination of *extremism and fanaticism* along with the lifting of economic sanctions of Pakistan. The Pak-military put its utmost efforts by initiating numerous anti-terror operations in North Waziristan, Wanna, FATA and other tribal areas of Pakistan confronting Afghan border to establish peace in the region. The study also portrays the true image of *extremist religious organizations* and their tactics to use Islam as a religion of terror. The manhunt of 9/11 terrorists by Pak-US co-operation has paid a significant part to cease violence and terror on global scale. Through his memoir Musharraf has tried to elucidate the idea of *enlightened moderation* to quash war

globally by a quick symbiosis of *terrorism and religion*. He has also endeavoured to conserve the true image of Islam as a religion of peace and harmony before the world which has been brutally blemished by Al-Qaeda.

Key Words: Extremism, Fanaticism, Fundamentalism, War on Terror, Al- Qaeda, Jihad, Madrassas, Talibans, International diplomacy, Afghan War, Alliance, Refugees.

Introduction

9/11 was one of the most devastating incidences that the world has faced in the past years. September 11, 2001 was a drastic day, not only for United States but for the entire world. It was the beginning of a war, a war against shadows. This debacle incidence put Pakistan on the forefront of the global war; Pakistan was the first one in the line to be embarked by the fire of terror. We had faced the after effects of this catastrophic incidence more than any other country ever had. Under the reign of President Musharraf, Pakistan became a subject of terrorism, extremism and fanaticism. In his memoir “In the Line of Fire”, Musharraf has enlightened all the social, economic and security hazards of which Pakistan became a victim of after this terror attack. The world was familiarized with Talibans and Al-Qaeda as the anti-peace organizations which according to Musharraf later proved themselves as “*Anti-Pakistan*” elements as well.

This global war started in 2001 when the twin towers of America known as the World Trade Centre were deliberately hit by two private hijacked aircrafts. America, the most powerful country was surely to react like a wounded bear as the mighty country was subjected to the most appalling attack of world merely by 2 aircrafts. The attackers were non-other than the Talibans of Afghanistan, but here a question strikes our mind that how come Pakistan fell in the limelight of this war? Musharraf has answered this abstruse question with a clear statement in his book as:

***“We were the only country maintaining
diplomatic relations with the Taliban
and their leader, Mullah Omar.”***
(In the Line of Fire; page: 200)

In order to demolish Al-Qaeda and capture “Osama Bin Laden”, the prime suspect of 9/11 attack, United States approached Pakistan to achieve its goal. The alliance of Pakistan with US had the clear intentions to eliminate terrorism. Musharraf has unveiled all the national interests based on which Pakistan accepted the terms and conditions put forth by United States. In short Pak-US co-operation started an open war against terrorism, in more implicit term a war against *international pariahs*, the Taliban of Al-Qaeda.

The war against Al-Qaeda is renowned as *War on Terror*. This war comprised on multimilitary operations of Pakistan Army in North Waziristan, FATA and other tribal areas of Pakistan confronting the Afghan border. Musharraf being the chief of Pak-Army staff led all the anti-terror operations with alliance of US. He has enlightened the determination and sacrifices given by Pak army to cease global terror with great zeal. He has also undraped the religious beliefs of Taliban and has given them the title of “*obscurantist clerics*”, who had their own interpretation of Islam and who brought a great disgrace to Islam, the religion of peace, love and harmony. He has also presented enlightened moderation as the most effective way to cope with this distress of terror and to spread peace not only in Pakistan but globally.

Pre- 9/11 Environment

If one says that Pakistan was a very stable country socially, economically, politically and from the perspective of security before this war, it won't hold much truth value. Before 2001 Pakistan was facing lack of accountability and was struggling to gain economic strength. The economy of this developing country faced a serious setback by the immigration of Afghan refugees through the Durand line. Pakistan was subjected to poverty, military dictatorship, economic instability, unemployment and target killing before 2001. Pakistan also had

stressful relations with India on the Kashmir issue which worsened the situation. In short prior to 9/11 situation Pakistan was victimized by both internal and external issues of security and instability which were further aggravated by Al-Qaeda in 2001.

Afghan War & Afghan Refugees

Afghan war started in 1978 by the invasion of Soviet Union in Afghanistan. The Afghan soldiers termed as *Afghan Mujahedeen* fought well against U.S.S.R. Pakistan along with the other Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia and U.A.E showed alliance towards Muslims of Afghanistan. This war resulted in the immigration of numerous Afghans to Pakistan through the porous Pak-Afghan border. Musharraf has accentuated the predicaments these immigrants brought to the under developed state. Pakistan was the only country who had faced the immigration of more than 4 million refugees. These refugees contributed to the destabilization of Pakistan's social, domestic and economic infra-structure. They crossed the Durand Line and settled in the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan and resulted in the establishment of Al-Qaeda operatives in Waziristan and Wana. Afghan refugees not only saddled the economy of state but also brought a new wave of terrorism and extremism.

The Emergence of Talibans

The entire organization of Talibans came into existence with one name *Mullah Omar*. In-depth study of "In the Line of Fire" fathoms how one person with vicious intentions raised the most powerful organization of world. Preliminarily, in the Afghan War Confronting U.S.S.R (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mullah Omar served as an ordinary mujahid. As the Jihad perdured, he joined various *Mujahideen Organizations* and eventually brought his own small organization to existence. It is essential to highlight that in 1994 Mullah Omar also served in a village mosque of Kandahar as the prayer leader, most commonly deputed as the *imam*. It was the same year 1994 when he started his Taliban movement in Maiwand. After the withdrawal of Soviets from the land of Afghanistan, a chaos of lawlessness and insecurity

spread among the region. Mullah Omar played fairly with the people of Afghanistan by using the desperation of environment. The public was victimized of murder, theft and rape. They were in the dire need of a leader who can bring an end to this lawlessness. He gained fame when he with his small group of Taliban disarmed and voraciously killed a group of Afghan violators who abducted and raped two young boys. The public at that time was oppressed with this prevailing environment of feloniousness. Mullah Omar soon got recognition among the people of Afghanistan as the leader “*Amir*” of Taliban. He was awarded with the title of *Amir-ul-Momineen*.

Origin of Al-Qaeda

After the withdrawal of Soviets Al-Qaeda gained power in Afghanistan. In about two years after the formation of this organization Taliban occupied 90% population of this region. The name of this organization was laid by Dr. Abdullah Azzam who was also a mentor of both Omar and Osama. Musharraf has put light on the base of this organization, its motives and objectives from the initial grounds. When Azzam laid the foundation of this organization he had no intentions to bring terror or extremism in world, he formulated the organization with the intentions of Muslim support around the world. He made Al-Qaeda with the purpose of *Muslim Awakening*, to help and support the suppressed Muslims in foreign territories. Azzam initially named the organization as “*Qaeda al Sulbah*” meaning the *Solid Base*. It was later when Osama conflicted with him regarding the decisions and activities of organization, eventually he took the hold and renamed it as *Al Qaeda*. Musharraf also suspects that it was Osama who was involved in the assassination of Azzam a year later Al-Qaeda was formed. Al-Qaeda is defined by him as:

***“Al-Qaeda is a multinational extremist organization
whose members came from various countries.”***
(In the Line of Fire; page: 219)

The organization basically comprised of a consultative council, in more vivid terms a *Shoora*, which had widespread operating cells in numerous countries. The structure of the organization

was embodied by the delegations of economy, military, communication and religious exigency council. Musharraf has also mentioned that the organization not only had cells in Afghanistan or Pakistan, rather in other countries as well including Canada and United States. He has signified the purposes of Al-Qaeda as following:

- *“To radicalize existing Islamic groups and to create new ones where there are none.*
- *To proselytize.*
- *To drive American countries out of Muslim countries.*
- *To combat the designs of Israel and the United States in the Middle East.*
- *To support Muslims’ struggles for freedom everywhere.*
- *To pool all Muslims resources for the common cause of Jihad.”*

(In the Line of Fire; page: 219)

It would not be wrong to say that the organization started with the intentions of providing support to the oppressed Muslims around the world. The initial purpose was to give freedom to the Muslims and refrain from slavery of foreigners. Keeping in view these motives Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries supported Al-Qaeda to bring peace and justice to oppressed Muslims, specially to the Muslims of Palestine. The only mistake Talibans did was that they used the faith and passion of Muslims to create terror, distress and started a War.

Osama and Omar; Two Conundrums of Al-Qaeda

Of all the nefarious radicals, the world had ever seen, Osama was presumably the most reprehensible of all. He was also one of Al-Qaeda Terrorists, primarily the mastermind behind 9/11 suspect. Musharraf has regarded both Mullah Omar and Osama as *enigmas*. Osama was a Saudi national born to a very educated, influential and royal family of Riyadh. He completed his education from King Abdul-Aziz University and later joined Jihad movements. After becoming a member of Talibans he started minor terror and bomb attacks in the surrounding regions. Osama always wanted to be more than just a mere

member of Al-Qaeda, he wanted to be the leader of organization. He not only had involvements in Afghanistan but he also laid his Jihad campaigns in Saudia, United States and several other countries.

Dr. Abdullah Azzam created another organization named *Maktaba al Khidmat* in Peshawar in 1982. The purpose of this organization was the provision of operational, economical, strategical and devotional sustenance to the Muslims combating the Soviets in Afghan Jihad. The catastrophic incident of 9/11 didn't start the global war suddenly in a vacuum, rather the war started gradually. Initially Pakistan and United States were in favour of Afghan Mujahideen against the Soviet Union. Musharraf has also stated that the mission of Azzam for the exemption of Soviet Union from the Afghan soil was empowered by the alliance of CIA, United States and Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan. Obviously, Osama belonging to a rich family donated most of the financial supporting for the Jihad and gained an eminent part in the organization raised by Azzam. Later after gaining much significance in Maktaba al Khidmat, Osama started disagreeing in certain Jihad decisions with Azzam, his mentor. According to Musharraf, Azzam was a fair person with positive outlook of helping Muslims and generating an air of peace and hope. Osama on the other hand was an epitome of extremism and wanted to initiate war. Initially he remained under Azzam's mentorship but later refrained to be a part of this network and forged a new small organization, "*Arab Brigade*" which comprised on a few hundred fighters. With his new team of fighters Osama initiated many battles in Palestine, Egypt and other countries and earned a notorious name. He also led several bomb attacks in U.S embassies of Kenya and Tanzania. The Saudi government wanted to arrest Osama badly because of his spreading terror attacks. Pakistan also supported Saudi Arabia because of facing similar terrorism. The worst thing Osama did was blowing up of two gigantic historic statues of Buddha in *Bamiyan*. This attack surely had nothing to do with Muslim freedom, it was entirely and act of barbarism and hatred towards other religions. Osama soon gained popularity as the most wanted person *either dead or alive* because of his subsequent terror attacks around the globe.

Pak-Saudi Alliance

Pakistan and Saudi government had showed a great zeal of alliance when it came to Jihad against Soviet Union. Pakistan allied with United States and Saudia to support Afghan Mujahideen in the war against U.S.S.R. The Jihad in Afghanistan was progressing in a very positive and fruitful direction until Osama entered the picture. Osama brought this Jihad in a whole new direction of terrorism and destruction by taking control of Al-Qaeda and other anti-religious organizations with the help of Mullah Omar. After they initiated terror attacks in Saudia, Pakistan, Egypt, U.K, U.S and other countries, the Saudi government tried to reconcile with Talibans and most particularly with Mullah Omar to hand them Osama. Saudis wanted Osama because Osama was a Saudi native and in short Saudia was accountable for the deadly actions of one of their citizen.

On September 19, 1998, the head of Saudi Intelligence *Prince Turki Al Faisal* and the executive of Pakistan Intelligence met Mullah Omar in Kandahar, Afghanistan in relation to the exemption of Osama from Afghanistan. The Talibans had earlier accepted the Saudi demand that they would hand over Osama to his native country but Mullah Omar after realizing alliance of Pakistan with Saudia refrained from his statement. Both directors of Pakistan and Saudi Intelligence tried to reconcile with Mullah Omer and tried to realize him how both republics has supported Afghanistan in the Afghan-Soviet War. Now the only demand of both countries was the exemption of Osama which was clearly denied by Mullah Omar. Musharraf concludes the mutual demands of both countries in his book as:

“Earnest advice to Mullah Omar was either to expel Osama from Afghanistan or hand him over to the government of his native country.”
(In the Line of Fire; page: 213)

The declination of Al-Qaeda to accept any of these two demands put forth by Saudia started a new phase of terrorism lead by the parlous intentions of Osama. The lack of co-

operation of Al-Qaeda to hand over Osama eventually resulted in the future terror attacks, of which 9/11 is the most flabbergast.

Pak-US Alliance

After the terror attack of 9/11, America reacted voraciously to capture the ones who had targeted the most powerful state on its own soil. The twin tower happening occurred in 2001, was surely one of another attack of Osama to spread violence and hatred. Pakistan as stated above has supported Afghan Jihad movement against U.S.S.R. Therefore, the most possible way to reach Osama was Pakistan. United States targeted Pakistan to achieve its goal. Musharraf has enlightened all the reasons for which Pakistan was left with no room but to co-operate with U.S and cease this global war, in more clear terms to exterminate Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. According to the former President Musharraf, Pakistan was not on the verge of declining any sort of U.S alliance. He states that:

“There would have been a violent and angry reaction if we didn’t support the United States. Thus, the question was: if we do not join them, can we confront them and withstand the onslaught? The answer was no, we could not, on the three counts.”

(In the Line of Fire; page: 201)

Therefore, Pakistan was not left with any room to U.S declination. Musharraf also stated that the major reasons for which we agreed to co-operate with United States were the objectives of *self-interest and self-preservation*. The activities of Al-Qaeda were also gaining progression in Pakistan through prevailing terror attacks of several extremist organizations. The basic aim of Pak-US co-operation was advancement of peace by bringing the notorious activities of Al-Qaeda to an end.

In 2001, Pakistan was still toiling for social and economic development. The Pak-military was not weak but also it was also not comparable to U.S military in any terms. Pakistan was not on the verge to question the United States and start a war against itself. Military weakness was the major reason for which Pakistan had to co-operate with United States. Secondly,

the economic sanctions of Pakistan were brutally damaged by the immigration of more than 4 million Afghan Muhajereen during the Afghan-Soviet War. In short Pakistan had two options: either accept the alliance towards United States along with their demands and objectives or announce an open war against U.S. Pakistan would surely with such social, military and economic infra-structure would jeopardize its own existence if confronted a war against United States.

On September 11, 2001, three days after the phenomenon attack, *Wendy Chamberlain* communicated the insistences of United States to Pakistan's foreign office. Those seven demands of United States were demystified by Musharraf in his memoir as:

- *“Stop Al-Qaeda operatives at your borders, intercept arms shipments through Pakistan, and end all logistical support for Bin Laden.*
- *Provide the United States with blanket overflight and landing rights to conduct all necessary military and intelligence operations.*
- *Provide territorial access to the United States and allied military intelligence as needed, and other personnel to conduct all necessary operations against the perpetrators of terrorism and those that harbour them, including the use of Pakistan's naval ports, air bases, and strategic locations on the borders.*
- *Provide the United States immediately with intelligence, immigration information and databases, and internal security information, to help*

prevent and respond to terrorist acts perpetrated against the United States, its friends, or its allies.

- *Continue to publicly condemn the terrorist acts of September 11 and any other terrorist acts against the United States or its friends and allies, and curb all domestic expressions of support [for terrorism] against the United States, its friends, or its allies.*
- *Cut off all shipments of fuels to the Taliban and any other items and recruits, including volunteers en route to Afghanistan, who can be used in a military offensive capacity or to abet a terrorist threat.*
- *Should the evidence strongly implicate Osama bin Laden and the Al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan and should Afghanistan and the Taliban continue to harbour him and his network, Pakistan will break diplomatic relations with the Taliban government, end support for the Taliban, and assist the United States in the aforementioned ways to destroy Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda network.”*

(In the Line of Fire; page: 204, 205)

Another reason for Pak-U. S co-operation was the elimination of extremism and fanaticism in Pakistan which was spreading rapidly by the anti-religious organizations. According to the former President, Pakistan did not have enough military and economic assets which would be essential to fight individually with the prevailing terrorism. The assistance of United States would be fruitful for both nations: demolition of Al-Qaeda would bring justice to the 9/11 casualties and on the same line

Pakistan would be able to terminate extremism and terrorism from its soil.

Pakistan accepted the demands of U.S except the second and third objective. How a nation can give another nation a complete access through its land? Pakistan thus tried to negotiate these two objectives with the United States as it was not possible to give them a complete access to the headquarters of Pakistan's navy, air force and the crucial border locations of region. U.S finally accepted the conditions and embraced the access to only two bases of Pakistan: one in *Shamsi*, Baluchistan and the other one in *Jacobabad*, Sindh. U.S was given aircraft recovery with the condition of *no attack launching* through these bases. United States accepted the terms imposed by Pakistan and a new phase of Pak-U. S Alliance began with the aim of *War Against Extremism*.

War Strikes Pakistan

9/11 initiated a new reign of terrorism in Pakistan. Unfortunately, Pakistan had to face a plethora of predicaments after 2001, as the terror spreading organizations were not ready to skip any chance of defaming the country. Musharraf, in his memoir has apprised all the terror happenings Pakistan confronted after the twin towers incident. Taliban used Islam as a cloak for their sins and to achieve their goals while maintaining a positive outlook in the eyes of Muslim nations. Their next terror attack embarked on an American Journalist *Daniel Pearl* (a dual citizen of U.S and Israel) who visited Pakistan to interview *Pir Mubarak Ali Shah Jilani*. The innocent Journalist was trapped by Al-Qaeda terrorist *Omar Sheikh* and later brutally assassinated. The ransom demanded by the Taliban behind the abduction was the rescue of their fellow Taliban from *Guantanamo Bay*, especially the release of *Mullah Zaeef*, another notorious member of the Taliban. The declination of fulfilment of their demands resulted in atrocious slay of Pearl. Taliban also released the videotape of Pearl's assassination in 2002 to spread their terror in both U.S and Pakistan. The message delivered by Taliban after this murder was:

“We assure Americans that they shall never be safe on the Muslim Land of Pakistan. And if our demands are not met this scene shall be repeated again and again.”
(*In the Line of Fire; page: 223*)

Unfortunately, this scourge of calamity nexus did not end here. Pakistan continued to face more terrible attacks on the part of Talibans. In March 2002, another horrifying attack was embarked on International Church of Islamabad’s diplomatic enclave. The casualties of this attack were reported as six killed and forty-two injured including an ambassador of Sri Lanka. Talibans were clearly aiming at the foreigners, non-muslims and trying to defame Muslims. Five months later another attack on a Christian school in Murree occurred by three masked men of Al-Qaeda. Fortunately, there were not much casualties. But the chain of terror did not end here. Four days after the Murree school attack, a Christian hospital in Taxilla was victimized. The casualties included 3 killed and twenty injured. The hospital attack was followed by another terror attack in May 2002 when a bus of Pakistan Navy was struck by a suicide bomber. The bus was carrying some French engineers and technicians. A hotel, nearby the crime scene was also brutally damaged in which the cricket team of New Zealand was staying. The incident created fear among them and they left instantly without playing the match. Talibans were bringing a notorious name to the dear country. Musharraf has highlighted the reason of terrorism as:

“Political deprivation, combined with poverty and Illiteracy, has created an explosive brew of extremism and terrorism.”
(*In the Line of Fire; page: 295*)

In his plea for enlightened moderation, he claims that:

“We need to understand that the root cause of extremism and militancy lies in political injustice, denial and deprivation.”
(*Pervez Musharraf; A Plea for Enlightened Moderation*)

Pakistan was victimized with several other attacks which propagated the atmosphere of terror in the region and portrayed the image of Pakistan as an extremist country. The only way to cease the brutal violence of Al-Qaeda was to fight with them and bring their cruel intentions to an end. United States provided its assistance to Pakistan for the elimination of this prevailing terrorism. From here Pakistan started a new journey to bring down the Al-Qaeda terrorists with the alliance of United States. Pakistan was on its way for the manhunt of terrorists.

Manhunt of Al-Qaeda Terrorists

Talibans were radiating their debacle terror operations around the globe. Pakistan allied with United States to confront and defeat them. America wanted Osama and Pakistan wanted elimination of Al-Qaeda groups from tribal areas confronting Afghan border. Musharraf highlights:

“After 9/11 I was absolutely clear in my mind that the only way to avoid the wrath of United States against Afghanistan and the Taliban was to somehow get Osama bin Laden and his followers out.”

(In the Line of Fire; page: 215)

Pakistan initiated several military operations in sensitive areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan with the aim of terrorist manhunt. This manhunt began with targeting one of the most vintage cohort of Al-Qaeda renowned as *Khalid Sheikh Mohammad*. KSM had connections with Osama and was a member of *Afghan Alumni Terrorist Network*. He was suspected as the planner of World Trade Centre disaster in 1993 and pulling down of CIA headquarters in Virginia in an operation named as *Bojinka Operation*. He could definitely give a clue to the location of Osama. KSM was caught in Peshawar and mentioned that Osama had fled to Waziristan before “*Operation Anaconda*”. Pak-military thus started another operation in Waziristan, which was the hub of Afghan Muhajereen and Al-Qaeda terrorists. It was the base of communicative networks of Al-Qaeda with other nations that was equipped with operational courier and media support network. Fortunately, Pakistan was able to decimate one

operational base of Al-Qaeda and arrested *Abu-Zubeida* along with twenty-seven other terrorists which were later handed over to United States.

Pakistan initiated many other anti-terror operations some of which were:

- Operation Tora Bora.
- Operation Kazha Punga.
- Operation Beghar China.
- Wanna Valley Operation.
- Shakai Valley Operation.
- Dila Khula Operation.

Operation Tora Bora was the first operation which was conducted in Afghanistan by United States in December 2001. U.S believed that Osama and his fellows must be hiding in the mountains of Tora Bora. According to Musharraf this operation was the largest anti-terror operation anywhere in the world in which 240 Al-Qaeda operatives were captured. In his memoir, he claims:

“The Tora Bora net led to the capture of 240 Al-Qaeda operatives belonging to twenty-six different nationalities, the majority from Afghanistan and the Arab countries. It remains the largest catch in a single antiterrorist operation conducted anywhere in the world since 9/11.”

(In the Line of Fire; page: 264)

Operation Kazha Punga was conducted in June 2002 by Pak-military in South Waziristan. The operation aimed at destroying another base of Al-Qaeda operatives. This operation was initiated by *Special Services Group (SSG)* forces but unfortunately the terrorists got news of the plan. The operation went unsuccessful and many Pak soldiers lost their lives. This operation realized U.S and Pakistan the need of some peculiar armed forces for the operations that were conducted on mountains. Thus, with the mutual consideration of CENTCOM

(United States Unified Combatant Command, Department of U.S Defence) and Intelligence agencies of Pakistan, a unique force was formed. This force was named as SOTF (Special Operations Task Force)

SOTF comprised on a group of SSG battalions, intelligence, technical and aerial forces of both United States and Pakistan. After series of trainings, SOTF managed to effectively initiate its first anti-terror operation in 2003.

Operation Baghar China was the next operation against Al-Qaeda which was launched by SOTF in October 2003. The newly formed force fought for a day and made the operation successful by killing eight and arresting nineteen terrorists. The leader of *East Turkish Islamic Movement*, Hassan Masoon and a Jordanian named *Samarkand* were among the victims, both were highly demanded Al-Qaeda terrorists.

Wana Valley Operation was another successful operation conducted in South Waziristan by the SOTF force. In this operation, many soldiers lost their lives fighting terrorism. Reports have shown the death of sixty-four soldiers in this operation while sixty-three Talibans were killed by efforts of Pakistan Army. Wanna was the major unit of terrorist organization and after this operation, Pakistan was successful in eliminating another major portion of terrorism. After this operation Musharraf remarked that:

“Wana was cleared of Al-Qaeda.”
(In the Line of Fire; page: 268)

Shakai Valley and Dila Khula Operations were also launched in South Waziristan by Pak-military. Both operations went successful with the collaborative efforts of Pak-Army and SOTF. Al-Qaeda was defeated bravely by the military of Pakistan and United States.

Pakistan lost many precious lives in this war against terror and extremism. Through the numerous anti-terror operations, Pakistan played the most significant role in the demolition of extremism across the globe.

Islam and Extremism

Islam has always presented love, peace and respect as the code of life. Then how come Islam got questioned for extremism? Who established a relation between terror and religion? The question can be answered without any obscurity in one word; “Al-Qaeda”. Musharraf has held the violent terror acts of Al-Qaeda accountable for the great disgrace to Islam and Muslims.

“This has caused many non-Muslims to believe wrongly that Islam is a religion of intolerance, militancy and terrorism. It has led increasing numbers of people to link Islam to fundamentalism; fundamentalism to extremism, and extremism to terrorism.”

(Pervez Musharraf; A Plea for Enlightened Moderation)

Talibans had their own interpretations and rendition of Islam, which was entirely different from the religion propagated by Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H). They depicted Islam as narrow, biased and conservative religion which has suppressed the weaker ones and women. In their society girls were not allowed to go school or come out of their homes. They were infamous for their brutality and ferocity. Musharraf has toiled to compare preaching’s of Islam with the actions of Al-Qaeda Muslims. He has interpreted Talibans activities as:

“We could only watch in horror as the Taliban unleashed the worst abuses of human rights in Afghanistan under the cloak of their own peculiar interpretation of Islam, an interpretation that the majority of Muslims reject and which gives a bad name to a great religion.”

(In the Line of Fire; page: 212)

Talibans presented Islam as a religion of suppression and violence which has nothing to do with reality. They brutally slaughtered many innocent lives and laid ferocious massacres, whereas in Quran Allah says:

“Whoever kills an innocent life it is as if he has killed all of humanity.”

(Al Quran; Surah Al Maidah 5:32)

Islam had highly condemned sins of murder and suicide, on the other side Talibans laid the horrifying examples of violence and called themselves true followers of Islam. The reality is entirely different, Talibans had nothing to do with the great religion of peace. 9/11 was also a brazen act of violence in which many innocents lost their lives. Islam highly condemns terrorism while Mullah Omar reclaimed:

“It was God’s punishment for the injustices against Muslims. God was on their side and Osama bin Laden was a superman.”

(In the Line of Fire; page: 216)

This statement clearly shows Talibans had completely different views of religion which were highly distinct from the love of humanity and mankind, propagated by Islam. But what was the reason of this rebel? Musharraf believed that the Madrassas are responsible for the production of such extremists as most Madrassas are run by illiterate obscurantist clerics who themselves have no understanding of Islam.

Enlightened Moderation

This term was coined by Pervez Musharraf himself in 2002, the sole purpose of coining this term was to familiarize people with the most appropriate way to cease extremism. According to him the only way to establish peace globally is moderation. He is of the opinion that moderation of thought and action is necessary for both Muslims and non-Muslims for establishment of peace and love. Any idea or thought when approaches the extreme level results in fanaticism and radicalism and eventually leads to terrorism. In *“Plea for Enlightened Moderation”*, Musharraf signifies his views as:

“My idea for untangling this knot is Enlightened Moderation, which I think is a win for all -- for both the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds. It is a two-pronged strategy. “
(Pervez Musharraf; A Plea for Enlightened Moderation)

Conclusion

Pakistan being put on the front line of terrorism and extremism underwent massive damage, but fought valiantly. Though not entirely, but Pakistan managed to clear several claims of fanaticism and extremism from its soil. The article has portrayed the true representation of Pakistan on the globe after the horrifying incidence of 9/11. Pak-Saudi and Pak-U. S alliance played a very significant role to eradicate brutality. Al-Qaeda defamed Pakistan and Islam by their atrocious terror acts but Pak-military tried to quash their ferocity by numerous anti-terror operations against Al-Qaeda and Talibans. Pakistan tried to preserve the true picture of Islam as a religion of love, peace and humanity by refraining to support Al-Qaeda terrorists. The sacrifices given by Pak-military soldiers are worth appreciating and stands accountable for the victory of this war. The Pak-U. S alliance in this manhunt of terrorist faced public opposition initially but later proved its significance by bringing the prevailing violence to an end. Musharraf in his memoir *“In the Line of Fire”* has also illuminated the trials from which Pakistan went through in opposition of Al-Qaeda. Enlightened moderation is the most effective way to cease violence and war, and to spread love and harmony globally.

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