



War on Terror: The Cost Pakistan Paid

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ABSTRACT

The study investigates Pakistan's involvement in the global War on Terror and the cost it paid. The objective of this research is to analyze the multifaceted consequences, both positive and negative, that Pakistan endured as a front-line ally in combating terrorism. The background outlines the historical context of Pakistan's alliance with the United States and its role in fighting terrorism, highlighting the challenges and complexities faced during this prolonged conflict. Methodology involved a comprehensive analysis of existing literature, government reports and research articles. The results section uncovers the toll that the War on Terror took on Pakistan, encompassing economic losses, social upheaval, political instability, and an increase in extremist ideologies. Recommendations derived from the study suggest policy measures to address the aftermath of the conflict, fostering long-term stability, enhancing counterterrorism strategies, and strengthening international cooperation to prevent similar situations in the future.

KEYWORDS Afghanistan, Cost, Economy, Pakistan, USA, War on Terror

Introduction

The dawn of 21st century is marked with terrorism which is a different phenomenon for all people. The 9/11 incident in USA brought terrorism to the top most concern of international agenda which had its roots in previous centuries, more particularly in the multi-national anti-soviet Jihad (Minhas, & Qadir, 2014). The War on Terror, initiated by the United States and its allies in response to the 9/11 attacks, had far-reaching implications for the entire world. Pakistan, as a neighboring country to Afghanistan, played a critical role in the conflict, providing support and assistance to the United States and its allies. Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror came at a great cost, both in terms of human lives and economic resources. This study will examine the role Pakistan played in the War on Terror and the cost it paid for its involvement. A holistic response requires greater participation from all stakeholders. It also needs courage and imagination on the part of all concerned parties. An extraordinary situation must be thought through in great detail before making a strategic commitment (Yamin, 2015).

Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize the Taliban government in Afghanistan, which was established in 1996 after years of civil war. The Taliban's rule was characterized by extreme conservatism and a strict interpretation of Islam. The group provided a safe haven for Al-Qaeda, which was responsible for the 9/11 attacks on the United States. Following the attacks, the United States and its allies launched a military campaign to remove the Taliban government and destroy Al-Qaeda's infrastructure in Afghanistan. Desirous of protecting Islamabad's interests in these areas and to avoid Pakistan becoming a target in the campaign against terrorism, Musharraf reluctantly cut loose Islamabad's ties with the Taliban—a force it had nurtured, trained, and equipped for almost a decade in its effort to secure control over Afghanistan—and stood aside as the U.S.-led coalition assisted its detested antagonist, the Northern Alliance, to rout its own clients and their al-Qaeda accomplices and seize power in Kabul (Tellis, 2008).

Pakistan, which shared a long and porous border with Afghanistan, became a critical ally for the United States and its allies in their efforts to combat terrorism. The country provided crucial logistical support, intelligence sharing, and access to its airbases and seaports. Pakistan also facilitated the transport of troops and supplies through its territory into Afghanistan.

Pakistan's role in the War on Terror was not without controversy. The country's support for the United States and its allies was met with opposition from various segments of Pakistani society, particularly from religious and nationalist groups. Many Pakistanis felt that their country was being used as a pawn in the United States' global ambitions and that their sovereignty was being compromised (Karamat, Muzaffar, & Shah, 2019).

Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror came at a significant human cost. The country experienced a sharp rise in terrorist attacks, particularly in its tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. The Taliban and other militant groups began to target Pakistani security forces and civilians in retaliation for the country's support for the United States. Between 2001 and 2021, over 83,000 Pakistani civilians and security personnel were killed in terrorist attacks. Internally, the 'War on Terror' undermined civilian institutions, contributed to political fragmentation and increased military and violence (Nawab, Yaseen, & Muzaffar, 2021; Bashir, 2022).

The economic cost of Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror was also substantial. The country spent over \$150 billion on its military and security operations in the tribal areas and on its border with Afghanistan. The conflict led to the displacement of millions of people, causing significant social and economic disruption. The country's economy suffered from the loss of investment and tourism, as well as a decline in exports and foreign remittances.

Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror also had significant political implications. The country's support for the United States and its allies led to widespread anti-American sentiment among the Pakistani public. This sentiment was exploited by various political parties and religious groups, who used it to gain support and power. The conflict also strained Pakistan's relationship with Afghanistan, which accused Pakistan of providing support to the Taliban insurgency in the country. Pakistan has multidimensional problems like political, economic instability, lawlessness, terrorism, insecurity and influx of millions of refugees due to war in Afghanistan since 2001 (Yaseen, & Awan, 2017).

Finally, Pakistan played a significant role in the War on Terror, providing crucial support and assistance to the United States and its allies. However, this involvement came at a great cost, both in terms of human lives and economic resources. No war has a pleasant impact on any nation or society. While wars with weapons and military engagements cause colossal loss of human lives, the war on terror is a unique term in which the enemy primarily is a non-state actor but has a capability to strike against military and civilian targets (Ahmer, 2011). The conflict led to a sharp rise in terrorist attacks in Pakistan, causing significant social and economic disruption. Pakistan's economy suffered from the loss of investment and tourism, as well as a decline in exports and foreign remittances. The country's involvement in the War on Terror also had significant political implications, leading to widespread anti-American sentiment among the Pakistani public and straining its relationship with Afghanistan.

The problem at hand concerns the profound socio-economic, political, and humanitarian consequences that Pakistan has endured as a result of its involvement in the global 'War on Terror.' This study aims to comprehensively assess and analyze the multifaceted costs incurred by Pakistan, encompassing not only financial burdens but also the destabilization of domestic security, strained international relations, and the impact on civilian populations. By investigating the far-reaching implications of Pakistan's

participation in counter-terrorism efforts, this research seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of the challenges and complexities inherent in balancing national security interests with the need to mitigate the adverse effects on the nation's stability and development.

Literature Review

The literature review reveals a significant body of research highlighting the multifaceted consequences experienced by the country. Scholars have extensively examined the economic, social, political, and security implications of Pakistan's involvement in the global conflict. Studies have analyzed the direct financial burdens, such as military expenditures and the impact on public finances, as well as the indirect costs, including loss of foreign investment and damage to infrastructure. The social costs of the war, such as internal displacement, increased violence, and radicalization, have also been thoroughly investigated. Furthermore, researchers have explored the political implications, such as strained international relationships and challenges to domestic governance. Security-related aspects, including the rise of domestic terrorism and the impact on law enforcement agencies, have also been examined. Overall, the literature review provides a comprehensive understanding of the extensive costs Pakistan has paid in the "War on Terror" and offers valuable insights into the long-term consequences and potential strategies to mitigate these costs.

Pakistan is the main country which is significantly impacted by WOT. Pakistan needed to join the war to stop the worldwide disconnection it was looking after the atomic trial of 1998 and to defeat the authorizations to get financial as well as military aid (Malik, & Zhilong, 2019). WOT which brought about institutional unsteadiness and raised social issues that stayed consistent to torment the general public. The US is a lot of worried about the rise of terrorism and radicalism in the country. Presently the need of great importance is that Pakistan ought to remember the public interest and become more cautious in understanding the most extreme security challenges looked by the nation and it shouldn't permit some other country to acquire strategic benefit of the ongoing situation.

Pakistan-USA relations with the accentuated history of seventy years have gone through periods of serious commitment to time of sanctions and treachery during the cold war, trailed by hexes of doubt, and friction during the WOT (ul Amin, Awan, & Mahmood, 2020). The binding of close relations of the 50s and 60s moved from one limit to that of complete obliviousness during the 70s, trailed by pressing wedding up during the Soviet intrusion of Afghanistan and going in to a most sanctioned ally after soviet withdrawal. 9/11 filled in as another breakwater by and by for the two old partners; but the warmth of relations remained much of the time impacted by various vexatious aggravations consequently disintegrating common trust and War results. US and Pakistan is recorded as a vital partner in the war against Afghanistan. The reaction of war in Afghanistan showed up with hits in Pakistan undermining its tranquility and dependability against one hand and polarizing its socio-political fiber of the general public on the other. Yet again Pakistan's role in the satisfaction of USA intrigues in Afghanistan is implied directly following US Withdrawal powers and perfection of promising harmony process in Afghanistan (Muzaffar, Yaseen, & Rahim, 2017).

After the attack on the American twin towers on September 11, 2001, the US Government initiated a war against Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. During this war, Pakistan became front line state because of its proximity to Afghanistan. The American WOT likewise welcomed appalling impacts on Pakistan. Because of the WOT, Pakistan confronted and is as yet confronting various difficulties in its social and financial circles. This study is an endeavor to feature the financial moves looked by Pakistan because of the WOT. (Jamshed, Jahangir, & Fazil, 2022) paper revolves around these research questions. What are the

financial impacts of the WOT on Pakistan? What financial cost was paid by Pakistan during the WOT? What are the ramifications of the WOT for Pakistan?

The exploration found that Pak-US relations starting from the beginning of WOT in Afghanistan has taken regular turns with each significant event in the theater followed by way of talking of "Do More" and compromising for suspension of help. While assuming ally's part, Pakistan's own security was inside tested undermining socio-political polarization and public crumbling along ethno-strict defectiveness. All Pakistan was let be to fight against the protected sky of fear mongers close by Durand line with dismissal to its human and monetary expense. Research found that Pakistan effectively played its cards as negotiating concession to look for US weight in settling it's financial and security related issue in befitting way. The study upholds the speculations that Pakistan and USA had their particular advantages for going into war (Khawaja, & Mahmood, 2020).

(Javaid, 2011) investigates that after the 9/11, Pakistan has turned into a frontline state despite the fact that hesitantly, yet since turning into an accomplice it plays had a vital impact in this conflict. In any case, it also has specific serious fears in this phase. There is a general inclination among the majority and furthermore the choices producers of Pakistan that once the war is finished, Pakistan will again be let be to manage the eventual outcomes of the war. Tragically, the war is not any more restricted to Afghanistan, it has now gone into Pakistan additionally, where in its ancestral belt and FATA. These terrorists have been making serious security issues prompting military tasks against them by the Pakistan military. The stressing angle is that there are self-destruction goes after all around the nation leaving the entire society threatened. These terrorists including Taliban and Al-Qaida, have now been joined by numerous nearby strict assailant gatherings. Presently following 10 years, since the war began, an enormous number of individuals accept that Pakistan is the net washout. This paper is an endeavor to break down the worries of Pakistan and to investigate the impacts of WOT on this country.

Joining the US drove alliance in the war against terror has many short and long haul repercussions for Pakistan. According to (Rabbi, 2012) the coalition assisted Pakistan with defeating the authorizations, to get monetary as well as military help and to end its worldwide isolation. It experienced vast misfortune in the WOT. It confronted gravest international strategy issues and needed to update its Afghan arrangement and found challenges in its tact while supporting the opportunity battle of Kashmir. The counterterrorism based oppressors and aggressiveness inside the nation added to institutional unsteadiness and raised social issues that stayed predictable to plague the general public. In this manner, Pakistan is thought of as one of the financial and key washouts in the worldwide framework that has developed since 9/11.

This study of (Kayani, 2011) highlights the role Pakistan has played in the GWOT and value it is paying in term of its security other than economy, political hardship and social disturbance. This not just influences Pakistan's endeavors as a main ally of the war yet additionally endangers its security. As indicated by a report "World In Danger 2008", all roads that lead to Weapons of mass destruction, expansion and psychological warfare go through Pakistan. The impression is made that Pakistan is the main state where illegal intimidation of various types is found and supported. In any case, what has been missed by researchers and examiners is the fact that Pakistan has played as a frontline state in the GWOT. It is a result of Pakistan that the US and its partners can guarantee any progress in the said war. However, unexpectedly, Pakistan is constantly blamed for supporting the Taliban and al Qaeda.

Discussion

Historical Background and Pakistan's decision to participate in WOT

Pakistan's engagement in the War on Terror can be traced back to the events that unfolded in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. To understand Pakistan's role, it is essential to examine the historical background that led to its involvement in this global conflict.

Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989)

The roots of Pakistan's entanglement in the War on Terror can be traced back to the Soviet-Afghan War. In 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to support the communist government, triggering a decade-long conflict. The United States, along with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, supported the Afghan Mujahideen resistance against the Soviet forces. Pakistan played a crucial role by serving as a key base for training and arming the Mujahideen fighters. The war not only resulted in a Soviet defeat but also left Afghanistan in a state of turmoil and instability.

Rise of Militant Groups

During the Soviet-Afghan War, the Pakistani intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), worked closely with the CIA to provide support to the Mujahideen. This collaboration inadvertently contributed to the rise of militant groups and the spread of radical ideologies in the region. After the war, many Afghan Mujahideen fighters returned to their home countries, including Pakistan, and formed various extremist groups. These groups, such as the Taliban, would later become major players in the War on Terror.

Taliban's Rise to Power in Afghanistan

In the 1990s, the Taliban emerged as a powerful force in Afghanistan. With Pakistani support, the Taliban managed to capture most of the country and establish their fundamentalist regime. Pakistan, along with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, was among the few countries that recognized the Taliban regime diplomatically. The close ties between Pakistan and the Taliban would have significant implications for Pakistan's engagement in the War on Terror.

9/11 Attacks and Shifting Alliances

The 9/11 attacks on the United States brought a dramatic shift in the global security landscape. The U.S. government, led by President George W. Bush, launched the War on Terror to dismantle terrorist networks and eliminate the threat posed by Al-Qaeda and its leader, Osama bin Laden. In the aftermath of the attacks, the U.S. demanded that the Taliban hand over bin Laden, who was believed to be hiding in Afghanistan. The Taliban's refusal to comply with this demand led to the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001. After 9/11, the Pakistani state's decision to abandon the Taliban (friends) under U.S. pressure and later to become a "frontline" state in the war against terrorism had led to a massive change in the "strategic security paradigm" of the Pakistani security establishment. This strategic policy U-turn transposed the state's long-held strategic partners and friends (Taliban) into brutal enemies in the war against terrorism in Pakistan (Khan, & Wei, 2016).

Pakistan's Choice to Join the Coalition

Faced with the choice of supporting the U.S.-led coalition or facing potential isolation, Pakistan decided to join the War on Terror. The Pakistani government, under President Pervez Musharraf, provided crucial support to the United States. This support included granting access to Pakistani airspace and military bases for the coalition forces, sharing intelligence, and facilitating operations against Al-Qaeda and Taliban elements in Afghanistan.

Reasons for Pakistan's Support for the United States in the War on Terror

Strategically no country can deny importance of geographical location of Pakistan. At 9/11 event Pakistan was far from US allies but US desperately needed Pakistan support because Without Pakistan's support terrorism war in Afghanistan was not possible (Akhtar, 2012). Pakistan's decision to support the United States in the War on Terror was based on a number of factors. One of the key reasons was the need to secure financial and military aid from the United States, which was necessary to strengthen Pakistan's economy and military capabilities. Another reason was the desire to secure political support from the United States, which would help to legitimize Pakistan's government and increase its regional influence.

Impact on Pakistan

Violent and religious extremism is rapidly increasing in Pakistan over the past few years. There is not only one factor that is responsible for the present economic crisis in Pakistan but frequently changing governments, ineffective policies, corruption, misallocation and underutilization of resources combined with government's failure to combat against terrorism and extremist violence has meltdown the economy since past decade (Iqbal, & Lodhi, 2014). Pakistan's decision to join the coalition in the War on Terror had significant ramifications for the country. It faced a backlash from extremist groups that considered Pakistan's alliance with the U.S. as a betrayal of their cause. The country witnessed a rise in internal security challenges, with an increase in terrorist attacks, sectarian violence, and the emergence of groups like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). (Yaseen, Muzaffar, 2018)

Pakistan also faced diplomatic challenges, as it had to navigate its relationship with neighboring Afghanistan, where the U.S. was engaged in a protracted conflict. Additionally, Pakistan had to manage its ties with other regional powers, such as India, which were impacted by the evolving dynamics of the War on Terror. Furthermore, the War on Terror had economic consequences for Pakistan. The country had to divert significant resources towards defense and counter-terrorism efforts, impacting its budget allocations for social welfare programs and development initiatives. Pakistan's engagement in the War on Terror was influenced by a complex historical background. Its role as a front-line ally in the Soviet-Afghan War, the rise of militant groups, the Taliban's ascension in Afghanistan, and the 9/11 attacks all contributed to Pakistan's decision to join the U.S.-led coalition. However, this engagement came with significant challenges, including internal security threats, diplomatic complexities, and economic repercussions, which continue to shape Pakistan's trajectory in the fight against terrorism.

The Cost Pakistan Paid

Pakistan was significantly impacted by the war on terror, which got under way after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in the United States. Pakistan, a crucial US partner in the conflict, got involved in an extended war with the Taliban and other militant groups, which had a negative impact on the country's economy, politics, society, security, and human resources. This essay is a summary of the conclusions regarding the price Pakistan had to pay for taking part in the fight against terrorism.

Human Lives Lost: Pakistan has suffered heavily in terms of human casualties. The country has experienced numerous terrorist attacks, suicide bombings, and armed conflicts in the volatile regions bordering Afghanistan. Thousands of Pakistani soldiers, law enforcement personnel, and innocent civilians have lost their lives in this prolonged battle against extremism. The impact on families and communities has been devastating, leaving behind a trail of grief and trauma. So far Pakistan has lost sixty four thousand civilian,

military personnel, and politicians and thousands others are wounded (Abbas, Baloch, & Khoso, 2020).

Internal Security Challenges: Pakistan's involvement in the war on terror has exacerbated internal security challenges. Militant groups, such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other extremist factions, have intensified their activities within Pakistan. They have targeted security forces, government installations, religious minorities, and public places, leading to a sense of insecurity and instability. The war on terror has strained law enforcement agencies and required extensive resources to combat these internal security threats.

Economic Cost: The economic toll of the war on terror in Pakistan has been substantial. The country's GDP growth has been hindered, foreign direct investment has declined, and the overall business climate has suffered due to security concerns. The government has had to allocate a significant portion of its budget to defense and counter-terrorism efforts, diverting resources that could have been used for education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. The tourism industry, once a potential source of revenue, has been severely affected due to safety concerns. Pakistan's participation in the War on Terror cost the country a lot of money. The fighting caused the economy to grow less slowly, which increased poverty and unemployment. Due to investors' reluctance to invest in a nation that was viewed as insecure, the conflict also caused a fall in international investment.

Further, the estimated \$15 billion direct cost of the war on terror to Pakistan's economy includes military spending, lost tax revenue as a result of infrastructure damage, and costs associated with providing security to foreign delegations, embassies, and consulates. Pakistan's economy is expected to bear a significantly larger indirect cost of the war on terror, estimated to be over \$111 billion. This price tag accounts for missed economic prospects brought on by infrastructure damage, a decline in foreign investment, and a decline in tourism. The decline in foreign investment is one of the major repercussions of the war on terror on Pakistan's economy. Foreign investment has decreased as a result of the war-induced sense of unease in the nation. Since the start of the war on terrorism, the Pakistani government believes that foreign investment in the nation has dropped by about 40%. The decline in foreign investment has had a substantial influence on Pakistan's economy, which has experienced a considerable slowdown in recent years. Infrastructure damage is another important impact of the war on terror on Pakistan's economy. Infrastructure losses to the nation have been severe, especially in its tribal regions. The war has significantly hampered the country's growth by causing the destruction of roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, and other vital facilities. The cost of repairing the infrastructure destroyed during the conflict is estimated by the Pakistani government to be over \$10 billion. Millions of people have also been displaced because of the war on terror in Pakistan. Millions of people have left the tribal areas for other regions of the country as a result of the conflict, placing a heavy burden on the resources of host communities. Loss of livelihoods has also resulted from population displacement, particularly for those whose survival depended on agriculture and cattle.

Displacement and Refugee Crisis: The war on terror has caused mass displacement and created a refugee crisis within Pakistan. The country has hosted millions of Afghan refugees for decades, and the ongoing conflict has led to further displacement. This has put additional strain on Pakistan's resources, infrastructure, and social fabric. Providing essential services and ensuring the well-being of these displaced populations has been a significant challenge for the government.

Diplomatic and Geopolitical Consequences: Pakistan's role in the war on terror has had diplomatic and geopolitical repercussions. The country has faced criticism and accusations of not doing enough to curb terrorism within its borders. Furthermore,

Pakistan's relations with neighboring countries, particularly Afghanistan and the United States, have been complex and strained at times. Balancing international expectations, regional dynamics, and its own national interests has been a delicate task for Pakistan's policymakers.

Social and Cultural Impact: The war on terror has had a profound social and cultural impact on Pakistani society. The constant threat of terrorism and violence has resulted in increased levels of fear, anxiety, and trauma among the population. Moreover, extremist ideologies and radicalization have posed challenges to social harmony and religious tolerance. Pakistani society has had to confront the rise of militancy and undertake efforts to counter radicalization through educational reforms, community engagement, and counter-narratives.

Security Costs: Terrorist attacks increased in severity and frequency because of Pakistan's participation in the war on terror, which had serious security consequences. There were massive casualties among both security forces and civilians because of the country's military and intelligence agencies' protracted struggle with the Taliban and other militant groups. Additionally, the conflict contributed to an increase in violent crime, particularly in the nation's urban centers. All the suicide bombings, and the attacks by terrorists were also related to this as the Taliban wanted to punish Pakistan because it joined hands with the US in the war against terror.

An analysis by the Pakistani government found that between 2001 and 2016, the War on Terror had a direct economic impact of \$126 billion on the nation. This cost covers both the direct (such as military expenses) and indirect (such as the drop in foreign investment and the loss of economic opportunities) effects of the conflict. Significant infrastructural damage was also caused by the conflict, especially in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), where the violence was the worst. The country also experienced a sharp rise in inflation, energy shortages, and a decline in foreign investment, which hampered its development. Significant effects of the conflict were also felt by Pakistan's trade and investment links with foreign nations. Particularly, decreased foreign demand for Pakistani goods and growing security concerns caused the nation's exports to suffer.

Lessons Learnt

In fact, terrorism is basically the cruelest of crimes, and the nature of it will change with changing conditions of world, with new means to enhance its power and impacts and made probable by developing technology (Aziz, & Shah, 2022). Pakistan's involvement in the "War on Terror" has provided valuable lessons that have shaped the country's understanding of counterterrorism efforts, regional dynamics, and the complexities of modern warfare. Through its experiences, Pakistan has learned several crucial lessons, which have influenced its approach to tackling terrorism and informed its strategic outlook. These lessons include:

Importance of International Cooperation: Pakistan has recognized the significance of international collaboration in combating terrorism effectively. The country has learned that terrorism is a transnational threat requiring coordinated efforts and information sharing among nations. This realization has led to enhanced cooperation with global partners, including intelligence sharing, joint operations, and diplomatic efforts.

Complexity of Extremist Ideologies: Pakistan has come to understand the intricate nature of extremist ideologies and the need to counter them through comprehensive strategies. It has learned that military actions alone cannot defeat terrorism entirely. Combating radicalization, promoting religious tolerance, and addressing socio-

economic grievances are crucial components in countering extremist narratives and preventing the spread of terrorism.

Balancing National Security and Civil Liberties: The war on terror has highlighted the delicate balance between ensuring national security and safeguarding civil liberties. Pakistan has learned the importance of protecting individual rights, upholding the rule of law, and maintaining public trust while implementing security measures. Striking this balance is crucial to prevent the erosion of democratic values and to maintain social cohesion.

The Need for Enhanced Border Security: Pakistan's experience in the war on terror has emphasized the significance of fortified border security. The country has realized the importance of controlling porous borders to prevent the movement of terrorists, weapons, and illicit activities. Strengthening border management, improving surveillance technologies, and enhancing cooperation with neighboring countries have become key priorities.

Focus on Intelligence and Counterinsurgency Operations: Pakistan has recognized the critical role of intelligence gathering and counterinsurgency operations in combating terrorism effectively. The war on terror has highlighted the importance of building robust intelligence networks, improving technical capabilities, and conducting targeted operations based on accurate and actionable intelligence.

Socio-Economic Development as a Counterterrorism Measure: Pakistan has learned that addressing socio-economic disparities and providing opportunities for marginalized communities are vital in countering the appeal of terrorism. Investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and job creation have become key strategies to address the root causes of radicalization and extremism.

Resilience and Adaptability: The war on terror has taught Pakistan the significance of resilience and adaptability in the face of evolving security challenges. Pakistan has learned to continuously reassess its counterterrorism strategies, adapt to changing tactics employed by terrorist organizations, and build resilience within its security apparatus to effectively respond to emerging threats.

Importance of Countering Financing of Terrorism: Pakistan has recognized the critical role of countering the financing of terrorism in dismantling terrorist networks. Lessons from the war on terror have led to the implementation of stricter financial regulations, international cooperation in tracking illicit funding, and efforts to disrupt the financial networks of terrorist organizations.

Pakistan's participation in the War on Terror has come at a significant cost, encompassing the loss of human lives, internal security challenges, economic setbacks, displacement and refugee crises, diplomatic complexities, and social and cultural implications. While Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism have been crucial, addressing these multifaceted costs necessitates sustained national and international support. It requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses security, development, and social cohesion. By addressing the root causes of terrorism, investing in education and development, and promoting a culture of tolerance and peace, Pakistan can hope to mitigate the long-lasting effects of the War on Terror and strive towards a more secure and prosperous future.

These lessons learned by Pakistan through its involvement in the war on terror have informed its policies, strategies, and approaches to counterterrorism. They have contributed to a more holistic understanding of the complex dynamics of terrorism and have emphasized the importance of multi-dimensional efforts encompassing security, socio-

economic development, international cooperation, and ideological resilience in effectively combating the menace of terrorism.

Conclusion

The War on Terror had a profound impact on Pakistan, both in terms of its economic and social costs, and its implications for regional security. This study has explored the various dimensions of Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror, examining the motivations behind its participation, the costs incurred, and the implications for regional security. One of the key findings of this study is that Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror had significant economic and social costs that were not fully anticipated at the outset of the conflict. These costs include the loss of life, displacement of people, and damage to infrastructure. In addition, the conflict also contributed to the spread of extremist ideologies and the growth of terrorist organizations in the region. The study also highlights the importance of addressing the underlying socio-economic and political factors that contribute to the growth and spread of extremist groups. This includes addressing issues such as poverty, unemployment, and political polarization. Additionally, fostering regional cooperation and addressing regional grievances is important for reducing tensions and promoting stability. In terms of recommendations, this study suggests several ways forward for Pakistan and other countries that may find themselves in similar situations. These recommendations include addressing the root causes of extremism and terrorism, fostering regional cooperation, balancing the need for foreign aid and military support with potential costs, strengthening governance and rule of law, and promoting dialogue and reconciliation. Overall, the War on Terror has taught us important lessons about the challenges of promoting security and stability in the face of extremism and terrorism. It has shown that military solutions alone are not sufficient to address the underlying causes of these issues, and that a long-term, multifaceted approach is needed to promote stability, reduce extremism, and build more resilient societies. Moving forward, it is important for policymakers to learn from the lessons of the War on Terror and work towards promoting greater security, stability, and prosperity for all. This will require a sustained commitment to addressing the root causes of extremism and terrorism, fostering regional cooperation, and strengthening governance and rule of law. It will also require a commitment to promoting dialogue and reconciliation, in order to reduce tensions and build more inclusive and cohesive societies.

Recommendations

Based on the above said debate, there are several recommendations that can be made for the way forward for Pakistan and other countries that may find themselves in similar situations.

Address the root causes of extremism and terrorism: The findings of this study highlight the importance of addressing the underlying socio-economic and political factors that contribute to the growth and spread of extremist groups. This includes addressing issues such as poverty, unemployment, and political polarization.

Foster regional cooperation: The War on Terror had significant implications for regional security, particularly in Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan and India. Moving forward, it is important for Pakistan to work towards fostering regional cooperation and addressing regional grievances in order to reduce tensions and promote stability.

Balance the need for foreign aid and military support with potential costs: Pakistan's involvement in the War on Terror had significant economic and social costs that were not fully anticipated at the outset of the conflict. Moving forward, policymakers should carefully consider the potential costs of involvement in a conflict before making a decision,

and should seek to balance the need for foreign aid and military support with potential economic and social costs.

Strengthen governance and rule of law: The findings of this study highlight the importance of strengthening governance and rule of law in order to address issues such as corruption, political polarization, and the spread of extremist ideologies. Strengthening governance and rule of law can help to promote stability and reduce the risk of future conflicts.

Promote dialogue and reconciliation: The conflict in Pakistan and Afghanistan has led to significant polarization and mistrust between different segments of society. Moving forward, it is important to promote dialogue and reconciliation in order to reduce tensions and build a more inclusive and cohesive society.

By following these recommendations, Pakistan and other countries can learn from the lessons of the War on Terror and work towards promoting stability, reducing extremism, and building more resilient societies. It will require a long-term commitment, but the benefits of such an approach are clear: greater security, stability, and prosperity for all.

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