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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA'S COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGIES

Dr. Ammara Tariq Cheema[*1], Dr. Tahira Mumtaz[2], Fakhira Rasheed[3]

*[*1,2]Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Relations, GC Women University, Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan*
[3]MS Scholar, Political Science, Department of Politics and International Relations, GC Women University Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan

[*1]ammara.tariq@gcwus.edu.pk, [2]tahira.mumtaz@gcwus.edu.pk, [3]fakhirarasheed28@gmal.com

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Dr. Ammara Tariq Cheema

Abstract

This study aims to compare and analyze the counter terrorism strategies of India and Pakistan, exploring their evolution, effectiveness and impact on regional security and bilateral relations. India and Pakistan have faced constantly terrorism challenges since independence, both countries employing different approaches to combat the threat. The complexity of terrorism in South Asia necessitates a comparative analysis of counter-terrorism strategies. This research employed a qualitative methodology to comparatively analyze the India and Pakistan's Counter terrorism strategies by using both primary and secondary sources. The key findings of this research are that India' s counter terrorism strategies are based on acts and technological innovations and Pakistan did military operations, India's strategies are more effective than Pakistan. It is recommended that, instead of blaming each other both India and Pakistan should make long term peace building policies and sign peace agreements and made efforts to develop bilateral relations.

Introduction

Terrorism is illegally use of violence and threat for scaring civilians politically, religiously and ideologically. Counter terrorism strategies are the plans and steps taken by a country or a nation for controlling and handling or stopping the terrorism or its threat. And it always has some important purpose behind it. It includes bombing, assassinations etc. These plans or steps include intelligence, legal and diplomatic efforts, military etc. Efficient counter terrorism strategies are easy to accept, diverse and designed according to the need of that country which face threat. Counter terrorism strategies play very important role in the national security of a country. And they also define the mindset of the country. Every country should have some strategies for countering terrorism. Because terrorism can happen anytime.

India and Pakistan both are neighboring countries and also have historical connection. And they both face many security challenges and terrorism. Oftentimes both countries did terrorism attacks on each other for different reasons. And they developed many strategies for countering these challenges. In Pakistan's policies or strategies include military operations like Zarb-e-Azab, Radd-ul-Fasaad and peace agreements with militants' groups. This helped Pakistan to face the terrorism

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challenges. And on the other hand, India give attention for making their intelligence agencies strong, improve border security, and also implement legal policies like Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Terrorism effects the both country's bilateral relationship. And both are main countries are main part of South Asia.

Their shared longstanding political rivalry, mutual security concerns, unresolved territorial disputes and their history have impacted their threat Consciousness and national security priorities. At the same time, terrorism within every country has its own separate characteristics. Pakistan has experienced attacks by sectarian organizations and militant, including religious communities, state institutions, security personnel and violence against civilians. The activities of militant organizations, mainly the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), have placed considerable pressure on Pakistan's internal security system. On the contrary, India has been facing terrorist attacks in some of its metropolitan cities, insurgency in specific areas, and Jammu and Kashmir's security problems. The current research aims to compare Pakistan's and India's counter-terrorism strategies in the light of institutional dimensions, legal frameworks, intelligence cooperation, challenges in the implementation, protective measures, and implications for human rights. The work will underline the two countries' strategies' similarities and differences, attempting to determine their strengths and weaknesses, directions, and influencing factors. The study will argue that efficient counter-terrorism requires more than just responding to immediate challenges; law enforcement and other measures need to be taken to ensure institutional integrity, legal protection, regular implementation, preventative initiatives, and public support. Pakistan and India's strategies to combat terrorism have their unique aspects and challenges, addressing critical issues for both states. Still, the study's analysis is essential because of several factors. First, it demonstrates the effectiveness of various measures for similar challenges, allowing for the transfer of knowledge and best practices. Moreover, it sheds light on internal strategies and the context of the conflict in Pakistan and India, counter-terrorism in the region, and overall strategic security. Additionally, the current research highlights the practices and lessons learned in South Asia's region, which is also critical to the global strategic environment. India and Pakistan are two of the most influential countries in South Asia. Therefore, addressing their strategies is vital to maintaining stability in the region. The study helps the readers identify security issues in Pakistan and India and understand what steps these countries take to address them. Furthermore, the research will enable readers to recognize which state handles the issue efficiently.

Literature Review

Conceptualizing Terrorism and Counterterrorism in South Asia

The terrorism in South Asia and political violence cannot be explained through the actions of individual militant organizations. "The historical legacies, geopolitical rivalries, unresolved territorial disputes, lacunae in governance in specific regions, and the interaction between domestic and regional security, all of which influence the ways in which states formulated and responded to terrorist threats." Thus, counterterrorism in the India-Pakistan rivalry is an internal policy challenge and a component of a global security competition. Ganguly (2016) suggested that their bilateral relations had been periodically constrained by recurrent mistrust and crises, while Cohen (2013) placed the rivalry in a long history of partition, national narratives, and security dilemmas. The author proposed to assess counterterrorism going beyond the mere count of attacks or militant casualties but also taking care of institutional performance, civilian protection, legal accountability, and the imprint of security policies.

An illustrative distinction was drawn between coercive or operational measures and preventive ones. Armed groups can be preempted by military

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actions and arrests, gathering of intelligence, control of borders, and prosecution of perpetrators. On the other hand, a holistic approach to terrorism prevention encompasses competent policing, credible courts, trust-building in the community, financial investigations, and responding to conditions conducive to recruitment. Jones and Fair (2010) argued that Pakistan's experience with counterinsurgency showed the inadequacy of relying on solely military means and the need for a population-centered and politically committed approach. The overall framework proposed is mandatory to compare the two countries' approaches without prejudging which approach is more effective.

Pakistan's Counterterrorism Strategy: Military Operations and Institutional Implementation

A study of Pakistan suggests that since the 11 September 2001 attacks, it has adopted a more combative attitude towards militant groups, including carrying out military operations to eliminate them from regions where they operated. Jones and Fair (2010) provide an extensive account of Pakistan's war on militants and suggest that tactical wins do not necessarily translate into political ones. While targeting insurgent groups may weaken their capacity to wage war, topple them from office, and regain state control of areas they held, these successes are often undermined if the affected populations are not pacified, administered, and reassured in the new status quo. Their article thus highlights the need to analyses both military and political variables when studying militant groups.

Empirical research also shows that a counterterrorism toolkit is not a binary: a study by the authors of "What have we learned? Assessing the effectiveness of counterterrorism strategies in Pakistan" (2017) explores the impact of different policies on the level of violence. Its results help differentiate the effects of peace deals, operations, and the confluence of counterterrorism measures represented by Operation Zarb-e-Azb and the National Action Plan (NAP). It finds that peace accords do not contribute to a significant reduction of violence in its statistical model, whereas the combination of Zarb-e-Azb and NAP is associated with such a decrease. The study, therefore, demonstrates the conditionality of counterterrorism: the weakening of insurgent networks through military means depends on accompanying reforms and their effectiveness. As the study is based on quantitative assumptions, its results should be seen through the prism of the limitations of this approach: applying its conclusions to all stages of militancy in Pakistan would be methodologically wrong. NAP, introduced after the 2014 Army Public School attack, was designed to take down not only insurgent groups but also other violent actors in Pakistan. Its areas of focus include banned organizations, terrorist financing, hate speech, extremist narratives, and reforms of Pakistan's penal code and the criminal justice system. The report by the International Crisis Group (2015) highlights inconsistencies in the NAP implementation and serves as a reminder that announcing counterterrorism measures is not enough: for Pakistan's policymakers, it is now necessary to evaluate the reform package's performance through consistent, verifiable, and transparent metrics. Otherwise, there is no guarantee that any of the NAP elements will have an impact on the country's security situation. At the conceptual level, the report serves as the basis for this paper: while a formal policy statement can be a useful starting point for research, it should not be mistaken for action and/or results.

Lastly, historical research serves to provide context to the ways in which militancy manifests in Pakistan today. Jones and Fair (2010) analyses the country's counterinsurgency development and draw a link between militant groups' evolution and the Pakistani state's approach to each. Their article offers a useful overview of how counterterrorism tactics transform: depending on the conflict zone, local geography, and the goals of both the Pakistani government and militants, war may be waged in various forms. Therefore, when

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attempting to mitigate the violence inflicted by any of these actors, policymakers should consider the options available to the perpetrator as well as the victim. One should also be careful not to conflate accusations between state and non-state actors, especially when both are involved in attacks against Pakistan's civilians.

India's Counterterrorism Strategy: Legal, Intelligence, and Institutional Responses

India's counterterrorism paradigm encompasses criminal law, national investigative institutions, intelligence, policing, border protection and crisis response practices. The 2008 Mumbai attacks became a catalyst in the national discourse on preparedness and coordination. In response to this and other attacks, India passed the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 and amended the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) to create a central legal framework for tackling unlawful and terrorist acts (Government of India, 2008a, 2008b). It is an institutional and legislative aspect of India's response to terrorism; however, the mere existence of legislation or an agency should not be seen as effectiveness in and of itself. Kiran (2013) reviews the National Investigation Agency Act and highlights that the creation of a dedicated agency could help investigate terrorism-related offences, yet identifies limitations in the preventive capacity of such an agency. The question then emerges not only about whether a dedicated agency exists, but how it can be coordinated with national policing institutions, intelligence services, prosecutors and courts. Given the involvement of various levels of government in policing and public order, it is possible that intelligence services can undermine preventative efforts if information is not shared in a timely manner or responsibilities are poorly defined. Institutional specialization, though, is most useful when combined with inter-agency coordination and investigative professionalism that can utilize evidence in successful prosecution. The legal approach has also sparked a strong debate on the tension between security and civil liberties. Human Rights Watch (2010) highlights concern with the broad scope of provisions introduced by India in its 2008 counterterrorism legislation, ranging from the definition of unlawful and terrorist acts, long pre-trial detention, restrictions of association and protections for fair trial. Similarly, Mate and Naseem Ullah (2010) analyze how antiterrorist legislation in India can be instrumentalized by political and institutional actors to further their agendas. This is not to gainsay the state's responsibility to safeguard the public but to assert that counterterrorism legislation be subjected to questions of necessity, proportionality, due process and non-discrimination. While a law enhances the state's capacity, it can simultaneously create risks of abuse and accountability problems if it is not appropriately enforced.

The experiences surrounding the Kandahar hijacking in 1999, Mumbai attacks in 2008, Pathankot attack in 2016 and Pulwama attack in 2019 highlight the variety of challenges faced by India: hostage negotiations, intelligence assessments, protection of strategic sites, investigating sophisticated attacks and how to manage escalation with Pakistan. They should not be conflated into one measure of the success or the failure. There were different factors and circumstances influencing each of the cases. Their value is to evaluate how these cases led to the learning process within institutions, improved their coordination, increased preparedness and accountability, and what crisis response measures helped prevent risks and ineffective, harmful escalation.

Comparing Effectiveness: Outcomes, Legitimacy, and Sustainability

The elements that require comparison are not as simple as they may appear. The operational effectiveness covers examining the limitations of networks' capabilities to function and the ability to prevent possible attacks. Institutional effectiveness deals with the issues of investigation, prosecution, and implementation quality.

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Sustainability addresses the issue of whether the security situation will improve even if large-scale operations conclude or peel away. Finally, legitimacy focuses on legality and the degree to which civilians are protected by the state apparatus. It is essential to understand that the four concepts are not entirely intertwined. For instance, the reduction of attacks' frequency within a short span of time can be the result of effective operations. Nonetheless, even if a country has an institutional framework that allows for quick prosecution, it might not be performing well on the investigation and protective aspects.

It is not possible to split India and Pakistan into the camps of law-based or military-based counterterrorism. Both states use a combination of legal and coercive methods, although to varying degrees. The more accurate perspective is that they apply different strategies, which have distinctive institutional configurations and specific issues. Pakistan's actions and omissions demonstrate the costs of counterproductive measures and inconsistent NAP implementation and the difficulties of transitioning from war to peace (International Crisis Group, 2015; Jones & Fair, 2010). In turn, India's practices showcase the benefits of specific institutional and investigatory arrangements and highlight the potential risks of overly broad legal measures (Human Rights Watch, 2010; Kiran, 2013; Mate & Naseemullah, 2010). Both countries should not be judged entirely on their institutional design and legal frameworks.

Regional Cooperation and the Limits of Bilateral Counterterrorism

India and Pakistan's policies toward one another's terrorism are formed by the way each country perceives the other's actions as either defensive or aggressive. The problem of inter-state tensions and anarchy is complicated by the fact that the regional rivals try to pursue cooperative policies (Ganguly, 2016; Cohen, 2013). However, given the existing political and military competition, an increase in attacks leads to public opinion pressure on the governments to take revenge, thus undermining any cooperative initiatives. Therefore, in the case of both countries, it is necessary to create conditions for the exchange of information and evidence so that the parties can exclude their military intentions during the deliberations. Despite the complexity of fully establishing ties due to decades of confrontation, such measures will reduce miscalculations and misunderstandings. Moreover, despite the likely impossibility of immediately developing a political framework for relations, technical communications and investigations will allow for addressing the sources and motives of tension.

Regional coordination does not mean that the countries can completely abandon their domestic policies towards the terrorists. Both states must prosecute and penalize the perpetrators based on the evidence and financial transactions found. Additionally, states should ensure that their territories are not used to prepare and carry out attacks on the other country. In turn, evidence of attacks must be verified instead of accepting the political rhetoric of the other side. Thus, this approach will differentiate between what is documented and therefore true, and what is merely propaganda. Such research is also relevant to the topic because it provides examples of documented cases while examining policies, not just theories.

Research Gap and Analytical Framework

The reviewed articles provide an extensive analysis of Pakistan's military operations and NAP, India's post-Mumbai institutional reforms and counterterrorism laws, and the implications of bilateral opposition for the situation in both states. However, there are few articles that attempt to compare the two, and even then, the emphasis is put on individual characteristics of each country's counterterrorism efforts. In order to properly evaluate the differences and similarities, it is necessary to apply the same set of criteria to both states in order to juxtapose them and single out the aspects that are distinct in each case. The

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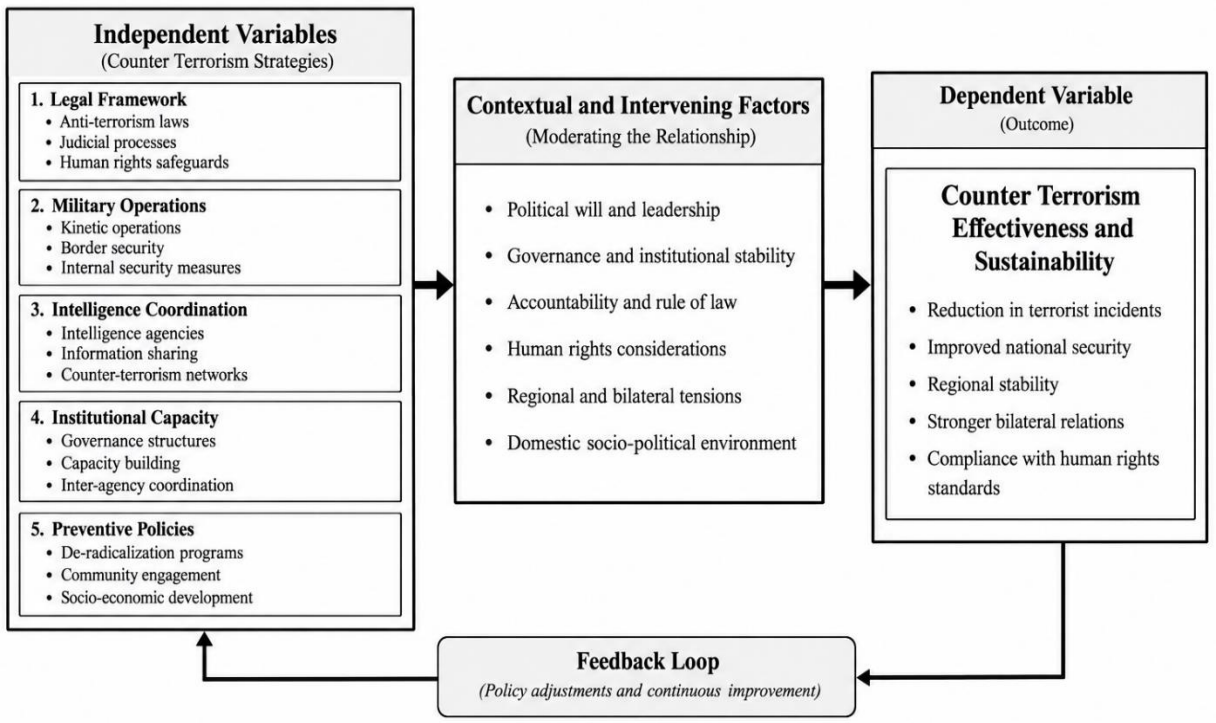
current research aims to contribute to the understanding of India's and Pakistan's approaches to counterterrorism by comparing the legal frameworks, military and law enforcement responses, inter-agency and intelligence cooperation, implementation barriers, human rights considerations, and the effect on bilateral relations. The study applies a qualitative methodology and focuses on similarities and differences between the states concerned. It argues that effectiveness in countering terrorism should not be measured in terms of operations launched and intercepted due to the activities of terrorist groups but should rather be considered in terms of multidimensionality and sustainability. As such, the research will follow the three tentative hypotheses put forward below.

Firstly, the current study proposes to investigate the different emphases put on legal and military aspects of counterterrorism by India and Pakistan, respectively, to identify how these differences shape the trends in effectiveness. Secondly, the analysis will be focused on the strategies that have proven to be consistent, based on the presence of appropriate operational frameworks, civilian government support, inter-agency and international cooperation, and the preventative rather than reactive nature of counterterrorism measures. Such strategies contribute to a higher level of effectiveness in the long term. Thirdly, the study will examine the role of bilateral collaboration in reducing risks and threats due to terrorism, as well as its limitations stemming from the lack of consensus between the two states. The three suggested hypotheses will be the point of departure for further analysis of India's and Pakistan's approaches to counterterrorism.

Conceptual Framework

This study uses a comparative analytical framework to examine how counterterrorism instruments are translated into security outcomes in India and Pakistan. It does not assume in advance that one country's approach is superior. Effectiveness is treated as a multidimensional outcome assessed through operational results, institutional performance, sustainability, legal accountability, and implications for regional security.



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Hypothesis

- For Fighting against terrorism India's approach is legalized, while Pakistan's approach is military-centric. India's approach for countering terrorism is more effective than the Pakistan.
- India's strategies for countering terrorism works for long term and on the other hand Pakistan's strategies only for the time being.
- If the both countries India and Pakistan work together and share intelligence it can reduce terror attacks.

Material and Methods

This study adopts a qualitative approach to compare and contrast Pakistan and India's counter terrorism strategies. Using primary data from reports and secondary data from academic papers, media sources for analyzing difference in their policies. This study examines legal policies, military operations, intelligence framework and efficiency against regional and domestic risks. A critical analysis of the both countries India and Pakistan after their Independence, targeting the major events like Pakistan's Zarb-e-Azab operation and India's Mumbai attacks. The study objectively cross check the multiple sources for better understanding. The comparative study evaluates the strengths and weaknesses for the regional and domestic improvement.

For the comparison, the study applies the same analytical criteria to both cases: operational disruption, institutional coordination, implementation, sustainability, accountability and human-rights safeguards, and implications for regional security. The analysis is documentary and qualitative; it identifies patterns and evaluates arguments in the available literature but does not claim statistical proof of causal effects.

Results and Discussion

India and Pakistan share some overlapping set of counterterrorism instruments, as opposed to having completely different ones. India has a developed legal-investigative complex, including the National Investigation Agency and changes to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, while Pakistan has focused largely on military operations as well as the National Action Plan (NAP) and other law-enforcement and administrative instruments (Government of India, 2008a, 2008b; International Crisis Group, 2015; Jones & Fair, 2010). The evidence presented serves to compare the emphasis and challenges in policy implementation, rather than to determine a definitive superiority of one country over the other.

India: legal and Institutional Measures

India's counterterrorism measures included a series of specialized investigations, amendments to counterterrorism legislation, intelligence coordination procedures and security measures that were introduced or reinforced in response to major attacks. The National Investigation Agency Act 2008, created a central investigative agency for specific offences, and the amendments made to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act enhanced the legal framework at the state's disposal (Government of India, 2008a, 2008b). Such measures can be used to ensure continuity in investigations and the state's ability to prosecute terrorism-related cases in various jurisdictions. However, the formality of the institutional structure does not necessarily ensure effective coordination or successful prosecution. Kiran (2013) focuses on NIA as an institution, but Mate and Naseem Ullah (2010) analyze the politics and execution of antiterrorism legislation. Thus, the evaluation should include the investigation into whether laws and agencies exist; however, the examination of evidential investigative practices, interagency coordination, and legal powers subject to meaningful review is required.

Pakistan: Military Operations and Implementation of the National Action Plan

Besides launching major anti-terrorism operations, including the military campaign of Operation Zarb-e-Azb, Pakistan's strategy also depends on the National Action Plan (NAP)

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security doctrine, which was initiated in response to the 2014 Army Public School massacre. Military campaigns exert pressure on terrorist networks by targeting their resources and geographic presence as well as their immediate operational capacity, and denying them territorial control. However, the effectiveness of such measures is limited in the long term, as weakened insurgencies can regain their potency if the state does not re-establish its governance capacity, essential public services, and lawfulness. Jones and Fair (2010) discuss the peculiarities of counterinsurgency in Pakistan, while the International Crisis Group (2015) highlights the opportunities and challenges of the NAP implementation. Indeed, the NAP security doctrine is an important tool that goes beyond military operations because its success depends on the wider array of policies targeting education, policing, financial systems, and other tools necessary to combat extremism and insurgency. However, effectiveness should be measured in terms of progress in implementation and sustained institutional performance rather than abstract proclamations.

Comparing Effectiveness and Sustainability

I think it is appropriate to evaluate India's legal-institutional approach and Pakistan's security-operation approach using operational effectiveness, institutional effectiveness, sustainability, and legitimacy. Operational effectiveness focuses on the disruption of imminent threats, while institutional effectiveness emphasizes coordination and the quality of investigations and prosecutions, and sustainability refers to the degree to which improvements are consolidated after a major operation or emergency; legitimacy highlights whether the state's response is lawful, proportional, and trusted by the public. I think these criteria can help move beyond assessments based on the number of arrests, laws passed, or operations mounted. A military operation might disrupt, but if it leaves governance and recruitment conditions intact, institutional improvements are not consolidated, or protections for civilians are lacking, such an operation cannot be said to have achieved its objectives. Similarly, legal institutions, despite their strong appearance on paper, may prove ineffective if their implementation is inconsistent or their enabling environment is insecure.

Human Rights, Accountability, and Public Trust

Counterterrorism measures are inherently caught between the obligation of the state to protect the public and the concomitant responsibility to respect fundamental rights. Human Rights Watch (2010) questioned India's 2008 counterterrorism laws, while Mate and Naseem Ullah (2010) analyze the implementation of antiterrorism legislation and the political context in which state security is addressed. Both writings stress the significance of observing the rule of law in antiterrorism, especially the need for judicial control, the necessity of due process of law, transparency of investigations, and a possibility of redress in case of abuse. Similar issues arise when military force is used in counterterrorism operations, since if the civilian population subject to state violence cannot expect to obtain redress for its suffering and hold its government accountable, this will undermine both the legitimacy and effectiveness of such operations. The present paper does not claim that India's and Pakistan's policies have failed to produce such results; rather, it argues that the concept of accountability is one of the criteria that must be used to assess whether a given measure has been legitimate and therefore sustainable in the long term.

Regional Security and Bilateral Constraints

India-Pakistan Rivalry and Counterterrorism Report (Assessment)

India-Pakistan rivalry poses challenges to counterterrorism efforts due to attacks, accusations of support, and retaliations that can trigger new crises at the international level. Ganguly's analysis of India-Pakistan relations offers a comprehensive perspective on the strategic

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deadlock between the two countries, whereas the International Crisis Group (2015) provides the context of Pakistan's domestic politics in the region. In this regard, bilateral tensions can hinder the ability of states to share information and cooperate with one another, and investigations benefit from not being compromised by political rhetoric. Regional partnerships are unlikely to substitute for the responsibilities that states have to investigate and prosecute acts of terrorism on their territories. However, building limited but effective mechanisms for crisis management, counterterrorism cooperation, and inter-agency communication can reduce the risk of terrorist attacks sparking an all-out escalation.

Hypotheses Testing

The first hypothesis proposes that India's approach is more legalistic, Pakistan's more military-centric, and India's approach more effective. The literature suggests there is a difference in relative policy emphasis but does not prove the superiority of one over the other. The support must be based on consistent indicators and comparable time frames; thus, the hypothesis statement is partially supported in terms of description and unsupported in terms of prioritization. The second hypothesis states that India's strategies are more long-term while Pakistan's are primarily short-term. The literature does not provide sufficient evidence for this statement because India's policies have implementation and rights issues while Pakistan's NAP incorporates some long-term non-military commitments. Therefore, this hypothesis is not supported as stated. The third hypothesis claims that increased sharing and cooperation would reduce terrorist attacks.. This is a plausible policy proposition in the context of transnational threats, but this study's qualitative design cannot quantify the effect of bilateral cooperation on attack rates. It should be presented as a reasoned implication rather than a proven causal finding.

Conclusion

India and Pakistan have had a relationship tainted by longstanding enmity, unsettled issues, and periodic bouts of hostility and tension. Their bilateral relationship has, for more than seventy years, been characterized by political distrust, border skirmishes, and most of all, terrorism. Despite efforts at peace by both nations through negotiations and diplomatic efforts, they have largely been unsuccessful on account of repeated terror attacks. The presence of radical outfits and their actions beyond borders have considerably undermined any prospect for lasting stability.

Terror attacks such as the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the 2016 Pathankot attack, and the 2019 Pulwama bombing have fueled tensions to the extent that they directly resulted in a snap of diplomatic ties and brought the two nations to the brink of war. After every major attack, peace attempts are shelved, and accusation towards each other further intensifies the mistrust. Use of proxies, domestic political discourse, and impunity continue to erode regional peace.

In conclusion, effective counter-terrorism in Pakistan and India requires a comprehensive, accountable and context-sensitive approach. While military and law-enforcement activities may ensure a country's security in the short term, stable institutions, an effective judiciary, prevention of radicalization, proper financial management, and public confidence in government are essential for the long-term perspective. The two neighboring countries have to strengthen the implementation of their policies, coordination mechanisms, and protection of rights in order to achieve positive results. On the regional level, proper coordination efforts can provide both states with additional opportunities to address the issue despite the complicated political situation.

As it was mentioned in the article, terrorism is the major threat in the India-Pakistan security docket, and until the militant groups are not eliminated, Islamabad and New Delhi will face serious challenges in their bilateral relations. Despite having regular meetings, both countries' leaders

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are not ready to solve the issue due to their national interests; thus, they will continue to use the threat as leverage in their relations. However, the absence of trust and effective measures to counter terrorism will undermine the progress in the India-Pakistan relations.

Recommendations

- Pakistan and India should focus on improving the work of agencies responsible for countering terrorism. Despite the presence of special mechanisms and the differences in the legal and security policy, their activities are dependent on the effectiveness of cooperation with the institutions in the countries. The inefficiency of the interaction between services, jurisdictional overlaps, and the lack of timely information exchanges can undermine the functioning of their policy instruments.
- Pakistan needs to enhance the coordination among the federal government, provinces, NACTA, police organizations, intelligence agencies, and criminal justice system. The National Action Plan requires a set of clear implementation mandates, performance indicators, periodic assessments and publicly accessible reports. India also needs to continue to improve coordination between central agencies, state police forces, intelligence agencies and the relevant judicial authorities. The division of responsibilities for policing and public order between different levels of government means that effective cooperation is particularly important in responding to threats that cross administrative boundaries.
- India and Pakistan should reform their counter-terrorism policy by being more reliant on long-term peace building instead of purely relying on the use of military force, as too much use of force tends to provoke more public outrage and resistance.
- Before support to any countermeasure or to blame one another for terrorist attacks, both nations should give priority to open ended investigations. Premature allegations often damage bilateral relations and close doors for dialogue.
- Intelligence sharing between both countries should be promoted under neutral supervision, so that cross border terrorism can be effectively countered and misunderstandings can be reduced. At the regional level, cooperation remains hindered by political mistrust and long-standing bilateral tensions. But both countries need to find concrete, limited ways to communicate on issues where there are obvious shared security interests. Any such engagement could be initiated through existing diplomatic channels and appropriate consultation during major incidents and establishment of agreed procedures for the exchange of information on cross-border threats of a specific nature while respecting national laws and data protection regulations.
- Effective deradicalization programs should be developed in both countries, especially in areas where radical movements are gaining ground so that young people do not get attracted to militancy.
- The police should be judged according to other criteria than the number of arrests or cases investigated. Trust-building, investigations carried out and compliance with legal procedures will give better performance indicators and will improve the relations between enforcers and the community. Effective policing will lead to better security and improved police-community relations.
- Pakistan and India must ensure that laws are enforced efficiently in tracking, investigating and prosecuting terrorists' finances as stated in the document. "Financial institutions and relevant competent authorities should apply appropriate risk-based procedures, strengthen reporting practices and conduct effective investigations on suspicious transactions." Cooperation between financial regulators, law enforcement institutions and prosecutorial authorities is even more important as financial investigations may involve a number of institutions and jurisdictions.

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- Both states need to discontinue sponsoring any proxy groups in pursuit of their strategic interests as such behavior has only caused regional instability and global criticism.
- Both governments should back locally informed prevention efforts that involve educational institutions, community groups, researchers, civil society and credible religious and community leaders. Such initiatives should foster critical thinking, peaceful political participation, respect for diversity and non-violence in resolving disagreement. Educational and community programs should be tailored to local circumstances, not a single national model for every region.
- Both states require legal reforms to guarantee that anti-terror legislation does not target minorities or political rivals in order to prevent weakening internal cohesion and faith in the judicial system. There should be regular reviews in both countries as to whether the counter-terrorism legislation is achieving its stated aims. Such assessments should consider the quality of investigations, the advancement of cases through the judiciaries, the protection of victims, and the effectiveness of safeguards against detentions made at will or the abuse of power. Having legal accountability should be regarded as a vital aspect in the protection of national security, and not a hindrance to it. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2014) states that human rights and the rule of law should form the foundations of effective criminal justice responses to terrorism. A system that is legitimate and transparent can increase the legitimacy of state action and can help to prevent abuses that erode public trust.
- The media for both states should be constructive and responsible. Rather than disseminating hate or war stories, media platforms should encourage facts and messages of peace.
- Global pressure and global forums such as FATF or the UN must be utilized not only for criticism, but to facilitate cooperation between both nations in dismantling terror networks.
- For long peace and regional growth, both nations need to have diplomatic interaction, people-to-people exchange and regional interaction higher than elimination and confrontation.

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