

Nuclear Powers And Terrorism: An Unfinished Crisis (A Case Of Pakistan And India)

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Abstract

Pakistan and India have combative relations due to the unfinished agenda of partition and has territorial disputes since their independence. Non-resolution of these disputes widened the gap of trust between the two nuclear states. Along with all other disputes Terrorism has taken the centre stage because the non-cooperative attitudes from both sides encouraged non-state actors to halt the process of normalisation between Pakistan and India. The study has started with the sole argument that the peace process of this region is now turned into a complex political theatre where terrorism is the major menace. This study aims to investigate the nature and substance of the South Asian peace process with particular emphasis on India-Pakistan. Thus intends to extend the scope of further research on the peace process by linking it with terrorism. The methodology of this research relied largely on qualitative analysis. A correlational research design is opted to conduct this study so that peace could be maintained in the whole South Asian region which is vital for the development of masses who are living here since a long time.

Keywords: Tense relations, Conflict, Terrorism, Nuclear powers, South Asia

Historical Background

Historical diversity of thought and beliefs had generated conflict in two Nation Theory which became an inherited legacy of Pak-India future conflicting linkages. This century's socio-political cultural and ideological distance ever aired ambiguity, clash, conflict and chaos between Pakistan and India throughout the several modern histories of the sub-continent. Both the neighbouring states have to meet the future of the long series of mutual distrust, uncertainty, clash and counter. Pakistan and India embraced several conflicts i.e. earlier issues of unjust division of India by the British imperialists. The ever-recorded historic violent migration of the masses infuriated the mindset

of future generations for the manifestation of hater and arch behaviour toward one another.

The unsettled Kashmir conflict ever existed as a dispute between Pakistan and India which again led to take birth many other conflicts like Siachin, Sir Creek, water disputes, lack of information regarding the movement of armed forces, covert plans to operate on the nuclear plant of Pakistan, arms race, cross border and state terrorism etc. India has been busy utilising tactics to segregate Pakistan in the regional and international community. On one hand, India has adopted a stance that Pakistan is the only reason and factor behind all the acts of terrorism happening in India. On the other hand, India has also blamed Pakistan for being the haven and

breeding centre of terrorism. Pakistan has also defended and countered India's blames and false accounts diplomatically on regional and international forums. Pakistan has, at times, asked India to stop sponsoring the terrorists and anarchists on the western borders of Pakistan i.e. Afghanistan. Pakistan has occasionally shown its concerns over the functioning of Indian consulates in Kabul. Pakistan and India are two immediate neighbours. It is a well-known phrase that blessed are those who are blessed with good neighbours. As cordial and friendly relations among neighbouring countries have always been worthwhile for the peace and prosperity of the region but Pakistan has not been fortunate enough in its relations with its neighbours especially with India as it has always been adopting a hostile attitude towards Pakistan since independence. The history of Pakistan- India relations is embodied by a series of conflicts and challenges that started as early as the unjust partition of the sub-continent which resulted in the Kashmir dispute. Then immediately after the partition, efforts were made by the Indian government to strangle Pakistan at its very birth by the conflicts over canal water, defence stores and cash balances. Besides Kashmir as the core issue, the refugee problem was also a great challenge for the new-born state. The attitude of distrust on the part of both sides had been a continued phenomenon. The two neighbours fought three wars i.e. 1948, 1965, 1971 and at least four times in 1987, 1990, 1999, and 2002 both states were on the edge of war. Hence Pakistan and India both remained almost busy cultivating conflicts and could not have had normal and friendly ties. The motives behind the conflicts are in the previous times and the political situation in India. The approach adopted by the leadership of Congress and the Muslim League towards each other during the struggle for independence caused various disputes immediately after the partition.

Besides historical and ideological reasons, the psychological factor is also considered one of the greatest hurdles in normalizing the relations

between Pakistan and India. It is evident from the statement of Nehru, the Indian leader. He said that the division of the sub-continent was the result of great psychological upset and the relationship between both states was difficult to understand for the masses as well. It was a distinct change and people were emotionally upset with this change. (S. M. Burk, 1973,18) The people of both countries desire friendly relations between the two neighbours and have the view that it is imperative for the security and welfare of both Pakistan and India and also for the peace and prosperity of the region that the two countries should bury the hatchet and settle to a friendly and cooperative relationship. It is only possible by resolving the disputes and conflicts between Pakistan and India. It has been considered a test of regional and international leadership to establish peace and stability for the prosperity of the region and the world at large and how they contribute to settling the outstanding disputes between Pakistan and India, the two big countries of South Asia.

Introduction of the Study

The tense relationship between India and Pakistan has emerged in territorial conflicts which have been rooted down since the partition of the sub-continent. Non-resolution of all disputes has deepened the distrust between the two states. Among all conflicts, terrorism has become a centre staged dispute which has to be resolved on an urgent basis. Terrorism became a main problem in all of the normalisation processes which started many times. This process halted when the Indian parliament was attacked by terrorists. Terrorism looks to become an ongoing issue. In all of the terrorist attacks, India blamed Pakistan and it shows India's coercive policy towards Pakistan. Interestingly both states have their stance on this issue. The same element is that India and Pakistan deny the involvement of terrorist activities and blame one another for this tense relationship. In July 2001, Pakistan and India held Agra Summit. The main irritant of this process was cross-border terrorism.

Support for Kashmiris is called the freedom struggle by Pakistan while India termed it cross-border terrorism. Pakistan always assured India that Pakistan never permitted terrorists to use their soil for terrorist activities.

New technologies, nuclear capabilities and rapid expansion of nuclear arms have created a serious problem and threat, not in the South Asian region but also in the world at large. The increasing role of non-state actors, terrorist groups and organizations has posed a serious challenge to worldwide peace. In the case of India-Pakistan, two rival nuclear states have a history of hostile relations. They have faced many terrorist threats and incidents in past and there is not seen stability and peace in future. The increasing impact of terrorist organizations in the South Asian region can become a permanent source of threat of nuclear war. There is an environment of distrust, chaos and disharmony between the two states. While mutual trust and behaviour of cooperation could be in favour of India and Pakistan, no doubt, both states are facing traditional and non-traditional threats. (Hough Peter, 2008, 67)

Research Objectives

- To analyze the nature of relations and practice in routine matters.
- To understand the causes of terrorist incidence which are not in benefit for both states.
- To examine the issue of terrorism that is halted the peace process in the South Asian region.

Research Questions

- Why Pakistan and India are unable to make a joint mechanism of terrorism?
- How terrorist activities are linked with non-traditional security threats?
- How the issue of terrorism is hindering the peace process?

Prospects of Indo-Pak Terror linked Relations

Terrorism is present in many forms and terrorists are involved in all brutal activities e.g.

Suicide bombings, drug trafficking, kidnapping, the assassination of key personalities and creating violence in the whole region. As Pakistan and India have had bitter relations since inception and these non-state actors and terrorist organizations have taken advantage of this bitter environment. It is said that there existence of militant groups in Pakistan, Roul argues, "There are more than 100 extremist and separatist armed groups" (RoulAminesh, June 5, 2010, 6) And India has banned 35 groups for their illegal activities. (Ministry of Home Affairs India Report, 2015) India has accused many times that Pakistani religious groups like Jaish-e- Muhammad (JeM), Lashkar- e- Taiba(LeT) and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HUM) have been supporting local terrorist organisations in India. (Bajoria Jayshree, December 9, 2011, 6)

Like this Pakistan claims that India has been supporting some militant groups such as Tehreek-e- Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Baloch militants. Pakistan's ex-Defence Minister Khawaja Asif accused India of assisting terrorist groups in Pakistan. (Dawn, January 13, 2015).

While Indian Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar has stated his policy of the state that "India will use terrorism to counter terrorism from other countries". (Hindustan Times, May 24, 2015)

The clash and mistrust have increased between Pakistan and India. Now the main focus is on the terrorism and regional politics of nuclear weapons while terrorist groups and organizations are adopting new trends and new technologies to gain power and accomplish their political objectives. Since 9/11 terrorism has become a hot issue and front page problem of the international agenda. The ferocity of these terrorist attacks showed the potential of terrorists, targeting nuclear material, radioactive sources and nuclear facilities worldwide. (Press Release of United Nations Atomic Energy Agency, November 1, 2001) Nuclear capabilities are considered a cause of national security by nuclear weapons states. However, possible options and

possession of these weapons by terrorists become a great threat to international peace and security. In the South Asian region, terrorist activities have increased with time.

Evolution of State Terror and cross-border Terrorism

Terrorist activities increased with a security threat in the South Asian region. (Nasir, Sadia.2004, 17)Some factors are the reality for increasing terrorist activities i.e. political and social instability, the tyrannical role of both governments and socioeconomic factors which play a negative role in the peace process. Some challenges are the basic cause of defective national policies. (ibid) The history of the South Asian region is full of challenges. Regional development cannot be seen because of the traditional rivalry between Pakistan and India. Non-state actors have played an influential and negative role. South Asian region was nuclearized on 28th May 1998 and this raised the threat of nuclear war. There are differences in religion, culture, ethnicity and language. Both states understand the brutality of nuclear weapons but the existence of these weapons is a permanent source of danger in the region.

Strategic instability is another important question which arises in both states. Some reasons e.g. corruption, weak rule of law, bad governance, poverty, unequal distribution of resources, unemployment, intra- state conflicts and injustice are the root causes of terrorism. Terrorists have taken advantage of the sensitive relations between India and Pakistan on many occasions and created misperceptions between these states.

In Malik's (2004) view, non-state actors have taken both states to the brink of war since 9/11. (Malik, Mohan. 2004, 322) Indian Parliament was attacked on 13th December 2001. There was a great threat of nuclear war at that time. (Chari, P.R. August 2003, 20). It was a tough time for Pakistan that it was facing international pressure after the attacks of September 11. During this critical situation, Pakistan had the option of nuclear weapons along with forces. On December 30th, 2002 the then president

General Pervaiz Musharraf disclosed that "would have unleashed an eccentric war' on India, even though a single Indian soldier crossed the border. Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes stated that "there will be no Pakistan left if India used its nuclear weapons" (Chari. P.R. Cheema, Pervaiz Iqbal and Cohen, Stephen P. 2009, 195). Both nuclear-armed neighbours were on the brink of war first time. Serious international pressure was faced by the two states. This episode had a great impact on the future relations between Pakistan and India. Bilateral talks and discussions were started for the normalisation process. Mumbai terrorist attacks in 2008 were another terrible incident in India which halted the peace process between the two states. Major commercial and financial places were the main targets of ten terrorists who used grenades and machine guns. Three days were taken by Indian security forces to defeat terrorists, nine of whom were killed. It has been referred to as India's 9/11 and at least 172 people were killed in this terrorist attack. (The Hindu, November 23, 2009). It was again an attempt of non-state actors to provoke India to engage in war. Terrorists completely were aware of the after-effects of these attacks. They tried to kill common people in commercial and economic places without having any threat of their death and they used common tactics and normal weapons. India blamed Pakistan for Mumbai terrorist attacks but Pakistan condemned it. Pakistan and India knew about the great risks of nuclear war. If serious steps were taken by both India and Pakistan it could escalate to a full-fledged nuclear war which could not be in favour of both states. Nuclear and security strategies remained unclear after these attacks and both states were engaged in a direct military confrontation. (The Hindu, 20 December 2001).

The effects of the November 2008 Bombay terror attacks showed the tension between leaders of India and Pakistan which faced international pressure and crisis at that time. After this tension, both armies were in the position of the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation which is called the 2001-2002 military

standoffs. It was the time when both countries were facing the threat of nuclear war. Anger was seen in Indian society at that time. In this case, domestic pressure on the Indian government to use force or by tit-for-tat game and to agitate the Pashtun community for making trouble on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. It would be a bad result for both states. In this situation, leaders of India and Pakistan should rethink that these strategies will never go in their favour.

Indian stance on Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

Pakistan is responsible for terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. With the concept of jihad, Pakistan is involved in every activity and wants to fulfil its policy for the liberation of Kashmir from India. Very after the inception of Pakistan, its forces entered the valley to annex Kashmir. A policy that was adopted in 1947-48 is continued till the present. Infiltration in 1965, the second India-Pak war, Pakistan proxy wars since 1988 and the Kargil war in 1999 showed that Pakistan favoured a policy of hostility in Kashmir. (Saraka, Nilambar. 2016, 160)

The separatist movement started in Kashmir and later on become Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). After that, Pakistan-sponsored Islamist groups took over the charge. This movement transformed into a terror campaign with the involvement of Pakistan's intelligence agencies like ISI. Weapons, arms and ammunition were smuggled from Pakistan. Yossef Bodansky, an analyst, stated, the main mission of these militant groups was to terrorize the common people of Kashmir and whip up anti-Indian sentiments and assume different projects to destabilize the state. Kashmiri youth was taking training from Pakistan. (Bhatnagar, Ved.1998, 56).

In 1990-91, extremist groups ruled major towns of the valley. It was considered that military organizations are backed by Pakistan. Due to security forces' actions, other organizations were merged into militant groups over time. ISI of Pakistan was the main instrument who was facilitating these movements and provided

weapons across the border of Kashmir. Foreign militants came from other areas of the world to help Kashmiris in the holy war and to target important places in India. ISI is playing an important role in providing weapons and training to jihadi groups. These groups and organizations aim to deteriorate India's development, targeting crowded, religious places and major institutions. (Chadha, Lt. Col. Vivek. 2005, 192)

Avoiding Blame Game

Regional terrorists were playing their role in the destabilization of the region. The Peshawar school incident and many other terrorist incidents occurred on the soil of Pakistan in which thousands of people have been killed but Pakistan reacted sensibly and avoided the blame game. Although both states have nuclear capabilities and they have to avoid such misperceptions and seek a more stable and implementable solution for a good relationship in future. They may have to settle the peace process again and understand that the present hostility in Kashmir is not in favour of the national interests of India and Pakistan. With this it will reduce the pressure of testing new devices and new kinds of weapons and also international pressure on both states will be lessened.

Problems in Border Management

There are many problems and issues in border management that need to be resolved permanently for a durable settlement. This has become a permanent source of tension between the two states. Different standards of security require different geographical areas. However, in border areas, there is a need for a reduction of tension between neighbouring countries. Borders can be better managed through administrative machinery that can continue border rules and regulations to be followed in disputed areas. Proper supervision of borders is vital for state security. At diverse areas of borders, there are specific border problems which have to deal with and manage properly with resolving these border disputes, and the

issues of cross-border terrorism can be handled properly. Direct approachability and the weak security of borders permit groups and people to cross the border, exchange information and transfer funds through these terrorist organizations. (Singh, Sanjai, 2005, 33)

Policy Recommendations

- Issues should be identified which promote terrorism and extremism in the South Asian region. A lot of comprehensive studies and research should be conducted in research centres to understand the main causes of terrorism and violence in both states. Joint research studies should be conducted by scholars and academicians to find out solutions to terrorism in the South Asian region.
- Awareness of peace and tolerance should be promoted in educational institutions. Tolerance and non-violence should be included in the syllabi of the educational system and a positive picture of both states should be taught to the students so that the minds of the students could be clear and think positively. Scholars and researchers should focus on research which aims at the issue of terrorism and work on a practicable mechanism not only to address the issue but to solve the problem of terrorism in India and Pakistan.
- Print and electronic media play a vital role in establishing images in the minds of people. There is a need for both media to avoid misreporting and wrong coverage of facts in any terrorist act. Either in India or Pakistan if there is happening of terrorist attack, all facts should be presented without mishandling of any news or if there is the occurrence of misreporting to misperception of any terrorist act, the media should be encountered.
- There are some root causes of terrorism, a home-grown phenomenon in India and Pakistan. If both governments focus on human security and try to resolve all problems which a common man faces in society e.g. unemployment, poverty and weak rule of law should be handled properly. Some precautionary measures should be taken by India and Pakistan for socio-economic reforms and a decrease in violence and intolerance at the grassroots level.
- If one country thinks first to engage the other country in dialogue, then it has to take a practical step.
- If any pre-condition leads both countries to take some measures both have to make a remarkable or excellent instance of it. All the issues like Kashmir, Terrorism, Bilateral trade etc need to be considered permanent.
- Both states have to deal with their domestic problems and should point out the elements and factors which are the main causes of interruption of the normalisation process.
- Ability should be produced in policymakers to address core issues of both states at a primary root level.

Conclusion

The history of Pakistan-India relations is full of ups and downs and fought three full-fledged wars and one limited war (1999) while facing tense relations many times. As the common threat of terrorism exists in both states and needs to be handled with the construction of a comprehensive counter-terrorism approach. Terrorist groups do not want peace between both nuclear states. The process of peace should not come to a standstill at any cost. Interests of the elites who patronage terrorism and derailed the peace process are to be understood and policymakers of both states must understand the blame game. The politics of terrorism is not fruitful for both states but easier for terrorists

and also it is a home-grown phenomenon which gives room for cross-border terrorism. Terror activities have not only made all states vulnerable but South Asia too.

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