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REGIONAL POLITICS AND ITS IMPACT ON NATIONAL STABILITY: A CASE STUDY OF PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Regional politics plays a pivotal role in shaping national stability, particularly in geopolitically sensitive regions like South Asia. This study examines the intricate relationship between regional politics and national stability, using Pakistan as a case study. Pakistan's strategic challenges are deeply rooted in its geographic location, historical conflicts, and complex relationships with neighboring countries such as India, Afghanistan, Iran, and China. The persistent rivalry with India over Kashmir, the volatile situation in Afghanistan, and the evolving dynamics of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are critical factors influencing Pakistan's internal and external stability. Additionally, the role of non-state actors, sectarian tensions, and economic dependencies further complicate the nation's strategic landscape. This paper argues that regional politics not only exacerbates Pakistan's internal security issues but also impacts its economic development and political cohesion. By analyzing historical events, current geopolitical trends, and policy responses, the study highlights the need for a balanced approach to regional diplomacy and internal governance to ensure long-term stability. The findings underscore the importance of addressing regional conflicts, fostering economic resilience, and strengthening institutional frameworks to mitigate the adverse effects of regional politics on national stability.

Keywords: Regional Politics, National Stability, Pakistan, Strategic Challenges, Geopolitics, India-Pakistan Relations, Afghanistan, CPEC, Internal Security, Economic Resilience.

Introduction

Introduction Founded in August 1947, Pakistan came about as a microcosm of the British Indian empire under its Crown rule a collection of various provinces, states and other territorial entities (Muslim majority by religion spread unevenly over the empire) endorsing an ideology expecting some form of religious-national unity. Throughout its existence, sprawling mostly mountainous, arid and semi-arid at the west end of the Indo-Gangetic Plain, failed in any

approximation to the British imperial feat (Ansari, 2022). State and its institutions were thrown in a volatile environment; it had links toward hegemonic powers of the time in different periods - United States, China, and USSR and, even without formal treaties, the United Kingdom - contributing to adjust its settings. Since January 22, 2012 the political situation of Pakistan has been fomented due to the protests in Faisalabad by the labor union against the government's privation and discrepancies on riots on the same day. The government of Pakistan wants to make an investigation. The city commissioner has written a letter to the interior ministry who then has sought help from the Punjab police.

None of this was conducive to closure of internal politics disputes on non-pakistani matters, allowing a further entropic maintenance of the system. Even a cursory glance upon the history of Pakistan's relations with its neighbors would give an ample array of striking episodes and unexpected schemes. Pakistan encompasses two regions with distinct identities and historical backgrounds: the larger region, which accounts for about four-fifths of its land and most of its population, shared through its history the same civilization and historical path with its surrounding countries (Hoodbhoy, 2023). Considerations regarding the limits and functioning of a state's interactions in this space (boundaries to choice of foreign policy and payments of the balance of power, unbalanced burden from coveting the optimum for itself in a system of power-transformers), combined to its overwhelming (and costly) military strategy, further conditioned the regional structure with the extraordinary divide between internal and external infrastructural placements; poorly developed infrastructure within its territory on the one hand, while gaining transit facilities and basing rights in foreign territory on the other hand, supporting a disproportionate scale to its commercial, military and strategic actions (Hassan Syed, 1970).

In regional terms, it allowed the SALT process to move along: the front-unitary placement entrenched early on the East and (far more prominently) on the West transformed the latter into the navel of the transit complex, overlooking the urgent improvement of the communication system towards the other tangible regions; which, in turn, were confronted by the scarce and thinning capital asset already being utilized in the national projects in addition to being a primary raw-material (Khan, 2018). Exploitation of the energy deposits in Northwest (large-scale production of coal started in the low quality Thar fields, power plants were installed in Lakhra and a steel mill in Karachi was begun), was inaugurated, a series of progressively forceful regimes in declining tolerance with Quetta's militarization for the crackdown on Pashtun separatist movements. Fulfilling part of the strategic vision about an industrial-link with Afghanistan – and beyond, with the USSR – iron and steel production in the strategically key Mariabad valley were also set out; not without socio-economic repercussions.

Historical Context of Pakistan's Regional Politics

The region of South Asia has always been ranked the second least integrated region after Sub-Saharan Africa. The friction between the two nuclear powers of South Asia in the shape of six full-fledged wars has halted the progress journey of regional politics. Pakistan, the sixth most populous country in the world, claimed its independence from the British Colony on August

14, 1947, after having only seven years in the political field. Since then, the national politics and sovereignty of Pakistan have been a further casualty as durable political institutions have been replaced by the swelling tide of militarization in every sphere (Khan, 2018). In the last seventy-one years, a democratic regime has spent only thirty-six years, and among them, twenty-two years of governance belonged to the military dictatorship. That is why Pakistan, being a frontline ally in the war on individual terrorism, is frequently being listed as the most dangerous territory in the world. Besides this, the worst poverty, illiteracy, a decline in public health, civil instability, and corruption waits to batter the limitation or national integrity of Pakistan.

After the end of World War II, the rivalry of the USA and USSR prevailed; the rupture and division of the USSR and the independence of the former soviet states further declined the political distance between the regional states. This is why the end of the Cold War is viewed as the dawn of the epoch of globalization. Among 194 countries, the major contributor to the UN Peacekeeping Mission is Pakistan; Pakistan is a state party to major international agreements and member of the World Trade Organization since 1995. Observing these facts it is indispensable to visualize the impacts of regional politics and its advancements on the national stability of Pakistan. This thesis embodies in the issues discussed (Ayoma, 2023).

Geopolitical Significance of Pakistan

With the political independence of South Asian countries, particularly like Pakistan, the partition processes were significantly highlighted, resulting in the clear definition of both land and water boundaries that formed critical parameters for territorial integrity and governance. These developments emphasized a burgeoning sense of national identity that was deeply intertwined with the new geopolitical landscape. In this context, a transformative nativism emerged amid the violent expulsion and marginalization of previous identities, as nation-states directed their attention inwardly to address growing criminological issues unique to their newly defined national boundaries. South Asian nations thus found themselves in a position where they intentionally limited their sovereignty and became increasingly focused on localized territorial concerns, while broader global issues often faced neglect and were relegated to the background. An isolationist approach marked this period, but gradually there was a significant shift towards a more interconnected stance on the international stage, which necessitated the adoption of a nation-state strategy that better reflected the complexities of modern geopolitics (Farsakh, 2021). Pakistan, in particular, recognized the importance of strengthening its military capabilities in this evolving context, and it allocated substantial resources towards this critical end. The 1980s ushered in the looming threat of Soviet intervention in neighboring Afghanistan, which strategically positioned Pakistan as a crucial player in regional and global geopolitical discussions. As the new millennium approached, Pakistan's relationship with the United States in the context of counter-terrorism efforts emerged as a pivotal factor that significantly solidified its role within the broader arena of global politics. Externally, Japan's noticeable shift from the vestiges of pacifism to more proactive and assertive activism, along with other strategic shifts that included military and economic sanctions imposed on Pakistan, further complicated the existing political fabric.

Additionally, Pakistan's responses to India's burgeoning nuclear programs presented new and formidable challenges by the time the 1980s unfolded. Military alliances in South Asia saw notable expansion, yet Pakistan consistently remained cautious about forging deep alignments with world superpowers, driven by concerns regarding potential adverse economic consequences. This delicate balancing act of maintaining sovereignty while navigating complex international dynamics illustrated the intricate landscape of South Asian geopolitics during this transformative period (Naseemullah, 2022)

Political Dynamics in South Asia

Political dynamics in South Asia contribute a complex mosaic of national, regional, and international politics that impacts on Pakistan's national stability and are reflected in its inter-state relations and defence policies. Within those parameters, three major factors are identified that significantly conditioned the political environment and national security challenges that Pakistan faced following the Cold War (Noor, 2023). A realignment of power relations in South Asia emerged between India and Pakistan (with varying effects in each case); the region has been the site of other major conflicts and this exerted pressure on the smaller South Asian states, including Pakistan; and the political dynamics within Sri Lanka, including the fact that its government for a time acquired military technology from Pakistan, implicated Pakistan in the Sri Lankan conflict. Taken together, these factors placed severe constraints on Pakistan's options for handling challenges to its national security.

The state's response to defence challenges is influenced by its perception of threats, abilities in task performance, and the regional and global security environment. Despite ongoing military and economic attrition, Pakistan continued to focus on deterrence. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of Cold War military alliances significantly impacted the South Asian strategic landscape, prompting international efforts to curb nuclear proliferation in the region, though with varied success. Post-Cold War, South Asia continued to face security challenges alongside poor socio-economic conditions. Many countries in the region faced urgent border issues, while nations like Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Pakistan dealt with their own difficulties. Addressing nuclear proliferation, water disputes, and separatism would need substantial aid from developed nations to resolve the economic and social deficits (Malik, 2005)

Internal Political Landscape of Pakistan

Pakistan emerged as an independent nation in 1947 on the division of the Indian subcontinent, and neighbours Afghanistan, China, and India, is home to a large population of 191 million people, with a GDP of over US\$270 billion. It also has a tumultuous past, with political issues compounded by continued problems with governance and security. This paper examines the impact of regional politics on national stability in the case of Pakistan, with particular reference to the unfolding situation in Afghanistan and on-going strategic sensitivities with India. (Khan et al.2023) It analyses Pakistan's internal security situation, leading factors threatening its national stability, and its growing strategic partnership with China. This partnership is then considered within the context of Pakistan's relations with India and Afghan-Pakistan Regional (In)Stability. The two research questions are addressed: first, what are the leading strategic partnership challenges and dynamics between China and Pakistan, and second, how is the role

of regional politics affecting national stability to be understood, with particular focus on Afghanistan and India?

The creation of Pakistan entailed the largest mass migration in human history. Many of the displaced people never fully resettled, either because they were incorporated into the army or settled in refugee camps that took on a more permanent characteristic or because they have been exploited as cheap labour by the existing population. The formation of Pakistan also had lasting effects on the nature of citizenship. The recent, massive push to repatriate Afghan refugees is in the process of drastically altering the demographic landscape in Pakistan's western provinces. Relations between Pakistan and India are poor, which impacts security outlook for both countries. Violence at the Line of Control in Kashmir is routine, with regular exchanges of artillery shelling (Lyon & Aurang Zeb Mughal, 2016). Meanwhile, even the suggestion of resuming cricket matches between the countries provokes death threats and bombing campaigns. Outside the western border, India plays a hegemonic role regionally, encircling Pakistan with its growing number of military bases and increasing arms deals. The trajectory of Afghanistan since the US invasion in 2001 and the Pakistan-US alliance supporting that has also illustrated the sometimes tenuous situation in the region. Attorney drone attacks in Pakistan's tribal regions by the US further inflame anti-American sentiment, further complicating the political scene (Okpaleke, 2023).

Economic Factors Influencing Stability

The cause of Pakistan's economic malaise lies in its feudal approach to governance. The 1962 constitution greatly decentralized political power, giving extraordinary control over fiscal policy to provincial assemblies dominated by feudal landlords. And the 1973 constitution entrenched this system, transferring even more economic responsibility and power over regional decision making to the provinces. The 1970s brought both the secession of East Pakistan and a radical turn in the iron consumer. Capital-intensification replaced labour-indigenisation as the main industrialization strategy. (Amin & Gillani) The Song of Oil and the War of Afghan translated into a quadrupling of oil prices. Pakistan responded with huge borrowing, exporting cotton and even ready-made garments to invest in oil and gas, but it was never enough. From 1990, the foreign exchange debt to GDP ratio exceeded 30%, forcing structural adjustment spearheaded by the IMF. But laws targeting big landlords were watered down, senior civil servants defended the status quo, and most measures to increase economic liberalisation were repealed after brief, pro-forma implementation. Militantly that to bypass the establishment instead of reforming it tendedowed by the IMF. Then in 2002, the military regime outsourced financial management to the largest gentry, shifting the center of gravity of budget decision making away from the public sector, both consciously and with systemic effects. Hence the economic crisis is but another facet of Pakistan's strategic conundrum. And as economic power is redistributed across the provinces, so too will political clout.

Coupled with civil-military tensions, this has provoked a crisis in political order. The 2002 and 2018 general elections were neither free nor fair, while the 2008 and 2013 campaigns only formalized civil-military compromises in pro-west political agenda. The 1973 constitution gives the armed forces a permanent seat in the National Security Council, making the military the

judge of its own actions. Civilians rely on the judiciary, which itself operates under a strong covert network of influence orchestrated by the establishment. In combination with the electronic media, not only were the playing ground far from flat, but also the rules of the game kept changing during match play. (Christopher et al.2021)Thereby presenting itself as a credible administrator to the worldly country abandon, ideology sought to politicize various demographic permutation conflicts, and the 5% of the voters of exchange irregularly accumulated wealth via privatisation or simply by as such plundering the public purse. Nevertheless, serious diverging interests have failed to congeal into effective countrywide chains of mobilisation. Islamically proved that politics remained by translation illegitimate, while social democracy was seen as a vehicle of revenge capitalism by the aristocracy, which markedly conditioned the limits and instruments of the socio-political struggle.

Security Challenges Faced by Pakistan

The early death of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's founder, marked a critical shift for the country's political elite. Instead of following Jinnah's vision for development, policy-making elites engaged in disputes over his legacy, creating a climate of fear and illegitimacy. This led them to adopt strategies to legitimize their rule, including distributing resources to certain political factions while suppressing perceived threats. The early 1950s saw increased attacks on opposition politicians, trade unionists, and intellectuals. Constitutional politics stagnated, leading the military to reclaim political control. (Haider and Zaheer2023) In 1958, growing political instability, exacerbated by the actions of enduring elites, prompted another military takeover, promising to eliminate corruption and populism. Fearing loss of legitimacy, both civilian and military leaders marginalized dissenters and enforced centralized development plans without public approval, deepening citizens' disillusionment with the state.

Security Challenges Faced by Pakistan: The nuclearization of South Asia and ongoing conflicts with India over Kashmir pose significant threats to Pakistan's security. In response, Pakistan launched a militarization campaign, developing nuclear weapons and seeking regional support. Aligning with the United States in the 1950s and 1960s through strategic regimes and military alliances, Pakistan aimed to bolster its position. However, this engagement opened Pakistan to serious security threats from internal factions and India. (Sadiq & Ali, 2023) The alliances encouraged India's assertiveness, exacerbating Pakistan's security dilemmas and increasing its reliance on China, leading to the construction of the Karakoram Highway and enhancing China's regional influence. Additionally, Western support emboldened India, contributing to the separation of Bangladesh and subsequent wars with India, including losses evident in the Tashkent and Shimla Agreements. As US assistance diminished amid these conflicts, Pakistan's economy began to decline, compounded by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the US's strategic use of Pakistan against the USSR, further entangling it in alliance politics.

Regional Cooperation and Conflicts

Developing countries are increasingly seeking regional trading partners to navigate the complexities of global markets. This strategy aims to mitigate negative effects from skilled-biased trade with developed nations by boosting trade within regions to support socially and

economically marginalized groups. (Karim & Said, 2024) As these nations recognize this trend, regional trade is viewed as a solution to urgent issues stemming from shifts in the international economy. However, many countries struggle with efficiency due to insufficient prior conditions, failing to shift from a rent-seeking to a bargaining mentality. They often focus on competition rather than complementary interests. Conflicting views among vested interests complicate trade relations and can create a negative cycle.

Despite these challenges, examining externalities in the international economy could yield a preemptive template to reduce inefficiencies. Key aspects include establishing consultative mechanisms among trading partners, a need for rapid employment policy adjustments, and organizing trade concessions while understanding the difference between conflict and incompatibility with various examples. Regions can effectively mitigate conflicts of interest, enhancing economic efficiency. (Olowoyeye et al., 2024) Examples include dialogues among African nations regarding the equitable sharing of the Nile waters, demonstrating that medium-term cooperative gains can outweigh losses for other parties. Similarly, the analysis highlights that like cases of conflicts in Asia might be resolved with rational negotiation and impartial arbitration, though nationalistic sentiments and domestic political pressures complicate such resolutions.

Existing conflicts of interest often hinder regional cooperation, particularly where historical grievances or unresolved disputes exist, with numerous examples seen among developing nations. Land disputes, in particular, have sparked inter-country tensions in various regions. The typology of these conflicts reveals multiple pathways for escalation, often leading back to affect the original parties. South Asia serves as a pertinent example of this cycle. Nonetheless, small deviations from rational expectations illustrate that irrational conflicts have significant economic costs. Additionally, new interests and divisions arise in response to continuous changes in the international economy, further complicating the landscape for regional trade cooperation. (Mamoon, 2017)

Pakistan is not the only country in whose territory is to be observed the operation of so-called unifying and disorienting forces and counter forces; indeed, there is an ever increasing number. Despite some feet of clay, largely, as by-product of the cold warriors, early efforts, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had sowed the seeds of bilateral settlements with India, converting the incessant rounds of bilateral negotiations into a mutually exclusive tripartite agreement with Russia and China sinecized in the Simla agreement. However, the tragic episode of Bangladesh, an offspring neither did the resources nor the intentions for mothering herself, signaled the establishment of post PhD Janetosian India on the ashes of cheap Bengali Burmese troops in which her role was amply recognized by the institute in a joint celebration with Israel and the US, obiquitously identifying the militaire-environmental setting with the brand name Bangla-Desh; and having the profound desire to revenge with the proud Bengali Ambassador December 12, 71, North Arabian Sea (Bhattacharya, 2022).

As South Asia's major rival states and the only countries in the world where none of the borders are agreed, the troubles between Pakistan and India have a long and multifarious history. The partition of British India in 1947 signified the beginning of problems with India about the

division of assets, most gravely concerning the splitting up of the armed forces and the Kashmir dispute. Intensive use of propaganda by both states in radio broadcasts and various gentler forms of media had a negative effect on people's relationships, eventually leading to the loss of most communications. The low intensity conflict in the form of Kurukshetra between India and Pakistan had continued since the Soviet war (Leaning & Bhadada, 2022).

As claimed by the Pakistani authorities, they were prosecuting a secular and democratic war, without any ethnic, religious, or cultural interest, for the freedom of the Kashmiri population in accordance with the United Nations resolution. The walking out of Pakistani forces from Wamm and the continuous assaults on the Line of Control since then have further deteriorated the situation. In the late years of the 20th century, the biggest event that could change the power structure of the world was the cancellation of the Soviet state government. With the end of the Cold War, Pakistan's supporting shoulder in regional and international affairs, the Soviet Union has withdrawn its protection. United States policies do not order peace and proliferation of democratic attitudes with the Indian state as an alternative to the tyrannies of the World. US Arms Embargo on Pakistan after October 1990 has accordingly highly unbalanced the regional military stability where India is at a liberty to take undue advantage cautiously (Mamoon, 2017). The independence of the Indian state is the main cause of the issues between the two states. There is the age-old contentious issue regarding Kashmir and some minor disputes, which have now badly disturbed after the nuclear test of 1998.

Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Pakistan faces a range of strategic challenges that cumulatively impact national stability. The end of the Cold War and the turn of the twenty-first century have brought the southern and eastern shores of West Asia, a broad economic and political zone that extends from Iran in the west to North Africa in the east, to the global centre stage. Pakistan faces India, on its east, which shares a long, disputed border and a history of conflict with Pakistan. South Asia remains economically deprived and conflict ridden. The nuclearisation of India and Pakistan in 1998 led to at least a temporary alteration of this perception. However, the recent aggressive regional politics of India has raised alarms for its adversaries specially for Pakistan. Further, due to aggressive policies and grandeur undertakings, India is found to be miscalculating about the prospects of advanced warfare. Such a stance has tantamount to a complicated border relationship and theretofore vigilant border skirmishes (Mamoon, 2017).

One hundred and fifty-eight years of British rule over the Sub-continent established a distinct administration, society, and economy, ultimately leading to the division of its people into two nations based on religion. The partition created Pakistan, a political entity formed amidst complex circumstances. At midnight, British India split into two sovereign states: Pakistan and Hindustan. Pakistan consisted of two areas: the west (now Pakistan) and the east (now Bangladesh), while Hindustan encompassed the rest. The division was fraught with issues, generating significant communal conflict fueled by British and Indian nationalist politicians. Mountbatten redrew Pakistan's map on June 2, revealing boundaries not envisioned at the time of independence. Consequently, many government bodies and a substantial portion of British India's Muslims were excluded from Pakistan. Notably, Oriya-speaking Muslims

remained on the western frontiers, with a higher population in the western wing than in the eastern. This boundary redrawing led to considerable losses, with population and territory reductions in the east amounting to 44.5% and 47%, respectively. (Hassan Syed, 1970)

Public Perception and National Identity

Pakistan emerged on the world map as an independent state on August 14, 1947. Since independence, Pakistan has closed the seventy-five-year political journey. Pakistan is a federal country (Gilliam, 2024). Federalism defines and organizes the state system on the basis of linguistic, cultural, religious, and other differences of the people. To some extent, Pakistan can be seen as a federal country since it has a central government and some provincial setups. Further, the evolution of the present federation in Pakistan provides empirical support. But it is also a peculiar kind of federation which has seen a great deal of intermittence, disruptions, and martial law.

Pakistan is a land of diversity, known for its different cultures, languages, and geographic variations. Because of the diverse nature of Pakistan, regionalism emerged as a strong force, posing strategic challenges to the country. The demands for the restoration of the provinces have gained momentum across the country. (Hussain et al.2023)However, the proponents of the restoration of provinces are divided on the number and name of provinces of the new Pakistan. Division in the political system has grown since the 1950s and regionalism has emerged. Despite this, those holding power have enjoyed strong central control because of a superior bargaining position – usually, but not always, result of indirect rule of varying kinds and duration. The others, held in a subordinate position, have had to subordinate their concerns to those of bigger and stronger parties emanating from the center. The socio-political fabric of the country, if not collapsing, is continuously weakening. There had been and has been and still are some forces of cohesion which can be brought in the interests of centralizing rulers. However, except for the period 1971 law and order crisis, these forces have never been effectively and consistently mobilized.

The politico-strategic doctrine of a common nationhood and national identity has weakened significantly since 1948. Rooted in colonial legacies, these ideas have been promoted by a multilingual bureaucratic class and largely stem from a single nationality influenced by Western socio-cultural norms. This has stifled effective adaptation among diverse groups and hindered a cohesive strategy for post-independence economic growth. Consequently, early independence frameworks have led to majority discontent, fostering centrifugal and chaotic dynamics. By the late 1960s, regional discontent erupted in violent episodes that disrupted daily life. The "Afghan" factor has further strained the situation. Amid rising ethnic dissent in Baluchistan, a movement against central agro-industrial policies emerged, driven by an elite benefiting from favorable political conditions. The Pathan national movement has been the primary political force in the region, uniting various groups to challenge traditional religious authority. Despite repression, Pathan cultural resurgence has fueled anti-Pakistan sentiment, exacerbating instability and complicating relations with Kabul (Z. Hilali, 2022).

Nationalism and Regionalism

The reappearance of regional politics in the 2000s has been perceived either as a constructive consequence of a centralized state's strategy to overcome the country's violent past or, conversely, as a new source of fragility for an already weakened state belief system (Idrees & Khan, 2024). This interpretation will be applied to the case of Pakistan, where federalism and nationalism are crucial issues. Nationalism and Regionalism are again on the rise during these times of globalization and liberalization. On the one side, the categories of global and local increasingly determine the new political geography. The political cleavage between the center and the regions exists in a number of countries; however, this does not prevent them from integrating themselves in the global perspective: countries at the periphery may try to counterbalance their domestic discrepancies by opening up to the world; likewise, metropolises can emancipate themselves by fleeing from their national center (Obstfeld, 2021). On the other side, globalization policies may arouse resistance both by exacerbating regional inequalities and by leading to the disappearance of traditional practices and values alternative to these global norms.

Referring to the case of Pakistan, which deeply reflects the interplay of these various drivers, three main elements will be tackled: first, an overview of both the recent and the background situation of the regions concerned; second, an analysis of how regional politics has affected national institutions; and finally, a consideration of the ambiguous siameses. Most of the contemporary nation states are characterized by centralized administration and strong state nationalism. There is, however, no such thing as a typical or adequate articulation of the state-nation-citizen trio, and contradictions exist rather than a uniform pattern. Some, like the West European countries, display an almost perfect fit while others, like the almost 18,000 islands of Indonesia or the 17,000 islands of India, diverge from each other on various points.

Regarding South Asia, the comparison between India and Pakistan is particularly rich from this viewpoint. Both countries extended their independence in 1947 from the British Raj, but if the former state was partitioned, the second was in fact divided into two separate entities so that the final territorial distribution bears already the seeds of the regional malaise. (Husain, 2023) On the linguistic standpoint, the 1961 Census recorded 845 languages in India but a single one in Pakistan, so that the linguistic repartition was not only an issue of national identity as it was the case in both countries but also one of territorial conflict. On the conceptual level, the two countries marked in the first constitutions were the Union of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, with similar ambiguous polities.

Future Prospects for Pakistan's Stability

Pakistan has been facing huge challenge of political stability because of bad governance, economic turmoil, terrorism (religious extremism and suicide bombings), and economic hardships. There are many other problems like slavery of the International Monetary Funds and the World Bank, ethnic violence, etc, which all adds up to the numerous social, economic, ethnic, religious, sectarian and political threats (Zeeshan et al., 2022). In this region, there has been war within the boundaries of Pakistan, from 1971, where Pakistan faced brutal dismemberment but continued to maintain an aggressive posture. The present study focuses on the regional politics that has affected the domestic scene. Terrorism in Pakistan has

rendered the state completely defenseless against an ill-nourished and ill-equipped enemy; whereas, the enemy is fully supported by intelligence agencies of different states. This situation of guerrilla war has crippled the economy and democracy and proved disastrous for social welfare.

At the bifurcation of 1947, Pakistan inherited only 17% of British India's resources while having a population of 32–33% and just 1/3rd of fertile land. Its largely unindustrialized and illiterate populace painted a grim picture, with 1/5th traumatized. The attack on Kashmir added to its woes, though Pakistan later found some military successes against India. Internally, it faced considerable challenges, including managing refugees, the resettlement of civil servants and military officials, and the creation of new provinces. Additionally, Pakistan posed threats to Afghanistan due to the ambiguous "Durand Line," leading Afghanistan to ally with the Soviet Union and interfere in Pakistani tribal areas (Kamran, 2024). During these years, Pakistan sought closer ties with Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, and the USA, including a military agreement with Jordan to counter Arab leftist movements. Plans for "Pashtoonistan" were stalled due to Pakistan's nuclear developments. The rise of the Communist Daoud government in Afghanistan following the 1978 Saur Revolution significantly altered the regional dynamics, complicating Pakistan's domestic situation and spurring guerilla and irregular warfare.

Conclusion

A crisis that occurs within an all-encompassing 'nation' state often presents far fewer hazards for that state in question than a crisis that arises when contrastingly marked state boundaries segment not only wisely devolved regional groupings existing within a nation, but also create divisions amongst wholly diverse and frequently antagonistic political societies, each boasting separate histories, differing types of political systems, diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds, and, in many instances, hostile foreign patrons that exacerbate tensions. National entities that have been formed under the intense pressure of the decolonisation process have frequently ended up encompassing a bewildering amalgamation of peoples, societies, and territories that are transparently incompatible with one another and present challenges that make it impossible to sustain a unified structure. The only means to maintain this impractical cohesion seems to involve the persistent deployment of state coercion, uniform extensive and intensive bargaining strategies, along with the vengefully sweeping powers of decisocracy, which are all specifically designed to stabilize the 'rules of the game' and maintain its inner circles at virtually any cost, often to the detriment of broad political mobilization. However, even such an extensive effort to maintain order and unity will regularly disintegrate under the pressure and impact of unpredictable and adverse political events that can suddenly arise, leading to an inevitable unraveling of the fragile bonds that hold the state and its diverse inhabitants together.

It is within this intricate and multifaceted context that a state, distinguished by the existence of ten distinct cultural and historical regions, emerges. This state showcases a vast array of languages spoken across very different sections of its population, which are not separated by any specific state boundary. Furthermore, there are widespread and manifold cultural and political ties that cut across these boundaries, creating a rich tapestry of interaction and

complexity. In addition to this diversity, there are sizable disparities in economic weight and progress, leading to unequal development across the various regions. Adding to this complexity is an outer barrier, which often runs directly through ungovernable mountains, effectively isolating areas from one another. Within this state, there exist followers of different religious sects – often agitated due to their differences, sometimes taking up arms, and on occasion, forming substantial majorities. These groups frequently demonstrate fierce mutual hostility and a lack of communication, further complicating the social fabric of the nation. As a result, this collective state finds itself, sadly, as the possessor of this indefeasibly tragic lot. This precarious condition is sufficiently fraught with menace to challenge any semblance of complacency, particularly since the issue at hand is highly relevant to the matter being considered. This remains true even if only half of the described conditions are present or may potentially arise within the specific case of regionalized statehood that is currently under stress.

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