

**Perspectives on Musharraf's policy of 'Enlightened
Moderation' in National & International Print Media**

(2003-2005)

Thesis for M. Phil. Degree in Political Science



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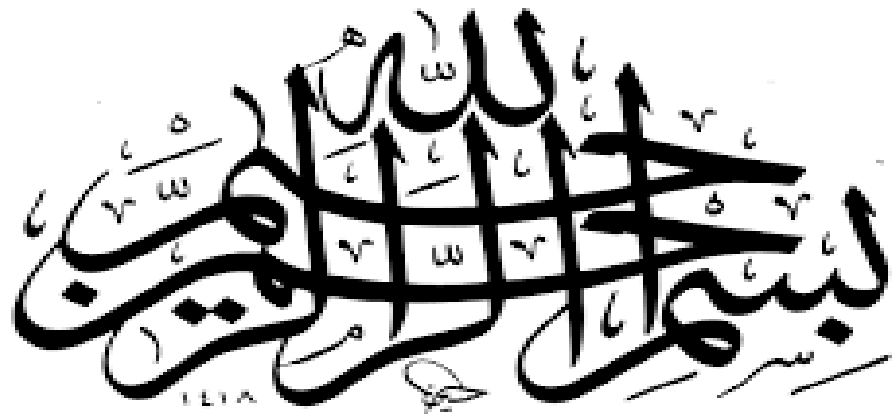
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DEDICATION

After Thanking Almighty Allah

I would like to dedicate this work to my great

Father, Muhammad Ahmad (Late),

Whose training enabled me to be what

I am today.

DECLARATION

I, Sara Ahmad D/O Muhammad Ahmad, a student of M.Phil. Political Science at the University of Management Technology, Lahore hereby declare that this thesis entitled “*Perspectives on Musharraf’s policy of ‘Enlightened Moderation’ in National and International print media*” (2003-2005) is the requirement for the degree of M.Phil. Political Science program. Furthermore, this work is entirely my own original effort. This work has not been previously submitted anywhere for any other degree or program.

SARA AHMAD

Date: 18-05-2017

Research Completion Certificate from Supervisor

It is certified that the research work contained in this thesis titled: “**Perspectives of Musharraf’s policy of ‘Enlightened Moderation’ in National and International Print Media**” (2003-2005) has been carried out and completed by Sara Ahmad, ID No. 15004112004 under my supervision.

It is also certified that M.Phil. thesis of Sara Ahmad, Roll No. 15004112004 on the topic “**Perspectives of Musharraf’s policy of ‘Enlightened Moderation’ in National and International Print Media**” (2003-2005) is her original work and all the sources have been cited in accordance with the prescribed format. Its scope and significance warrant its acceptance to the Department of Political Science, UMT Lahore for the award of M. Phil Degree in Political Science.

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Abstract

In the wake of 9/11, 2001 religious extremism became a major concern of international security agencies. Pakistan, in particular, became a focus of academic discourse on radical religious extremism and militancy. It was during these times that President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf presented the idea of “Enlightened Moderation”. According to him, the Muslims would have to adopt the modern path and the world should promote justice to get rid of extremism. This study examines President Musharraf’s policy of “Enlightened Moderation” and its different interpretations by the national and international print media. The study finds that despite President Musharraf’s efforts to explain this idea at length, it was interpreted in multiple, often conflicting ways by scholars in the Pakistan, the West and in the Muslim world. Data is included from newspapers articles and semi-structured elite interviews which are selected using quota and purposive sampling. Following the interpretive qualitative research tradition, the study is employed thematic analysis to analyze the data.

Key Words: Double standard, Enlightenment, Extremism, Moderation, Islamic values

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Aims/Objectives of the study	4
1.2 Research Questions	5
1.3 Main Argument	5
1.4 Outline of Chapters	5
2. Methodology	7
2.1 Triangulation	8
2.2 Research Design	8
2.2.1 Data collection	8
2.2.2 Sampling	10
2.2.3 Data Analysis	12
2.2.4 Within section & cross sectional study	14
2.3 Limitations	15
2.4 Ethical Consideration	15
3. Theoretical framework	17
Literature Review	19
4. Perspectives on ‘Enlightened Moderation’ in the Pakistan, the West & the Muslim world.	34
Analysis of Musharraf’s speeches and article	34
Section One:	35
4.1 Musharraf’s Perspective on EM	35
Within section analysis of newspaper articles	38
Section Two:	38
4.2 Perspectives in Pakistan	38
Section Three:	68
4.3 Perspectives in the West	68

Section Four:	72
4.4 Perspectives in the Muslim world	72
5. Comparative Analysis	81
Cross sectional analysis of newspapers	81
5.1 Section One:	81
Depiction of positive aspects of EM	81
5.2 Section Two:	86
Depiction of negative aspects of EM	86
5.3 Section Three:	96
Enlightened Moderation: relevance to the contemporary scenario	96
Conclusion	101
References	104
Appendices	110
Appendix A: Questionnaires	110
Appendix B: Informed consent form	112
Appendix C: Interview participants	113
Appendix D: Newspapers	118

List of Figures

Figure 2.1	Analysis within section	14
Figure 2.2	Cross sectional analysis	15
Figure 4.1	Musharraf’s Perspective on EM	35
Figure 4.2	Enlightenment towards progress	39
Figure 4.3	Islam & enlightened moderation	42
Figure 4.4	EM, as Western agenda	44
Figure 4.5	Contradiction between words & deeds	47
Figure 4.6	Charity began at home	51
Figure 4.7	Inaccurate analysis of reality	54
Figure 4.8	EM, Islam & Ummah	58
Figure 4.9	Unenlightenment instead of enlightenment	63
Figure 4.10	Shattered enlightened image	68
Figure 4.11	Progressive vision	72
Figure 4.12	Despicable Image	74
Figure 4.13	Unattractive idea	77
Figure 5.1	Depiction of positive aspects of EM	81
Figure 5.2	Depiction of negative aspects of EM	86

List of Table

Table: 2.1	Sampling	11
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Abbreviations

AIML	All India Muslim League
ATC	Anti-Terrorism Courts
A Q	Abdul Qadir
CAP	Country Assistant Plan
EM	Enlightened Moderation
JI	Jamaat-e-Islami
MMA	Muttahida-i-Majlis-i-Amal
NWFP	North West Frontier Province
OIC	Organization of Islamic Conference
PPP	Pakistan People's Party
PML (N)	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PML (Q)	Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-i-Azam Group)
QL	Qualitative
SRT	Social Representation Theory
TA	Thematic Analysis
UNO	United Nation Organization
USA	United States of America

1. Introduction

"As a model, Kemal Ataturk did a great deal for Turkey. I have his biography. We will see what I can do for Pakistan." Pervez Musharraf as cited in (Gupta, 2006)

The term “Enlightened Moderation” (EM) was used by former Pakistani President and Chief of the Army Staff General Pervez Musharraf while addressing the 58th session of United Nations General Assembly in September, 2003. He pointed out that the world is facing new forms of threat to peace and security since the event of 9/11. Unfortunately, after 9/11 West perceived that Muslims are extremists and terrorists. The confrontation between Islam and West was being openly presented. This confrontation was unbelievable for Muslims and it was the responsibility of the world to prevent this clash. According to him, the solution to this problem was ‘Enlightened Moderation’ an idea which would be acceptable to both Muslim nations and advanced Western countries. This idea had two sides: one was for the Muslim world to reject militancy and extremism and adopt the path of socioeconomic uplift and the other side was for the West, and especially for the USA, to resolve all political disputes of Muslim nations such as Kashmir and Palestine with justice and provide aid for the socioeconomic betterment of the deprived Muslim world, because injustice, poverty and illiteracy in the Muslim world created terrorism and extremism (Musharraf, 2003).