

Topic

The myth or reality of

Religious Terrorism

– a case study of Pakistan

(1980s

Onward)



**UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that present thesis titled “The myth and reality of religious terrorism – A case study of Pakistan” has been written by Ayesha Haroon as the requirement for MS in Public Policy from the University of Management and Technology, Lahore. The research described in this thesis is original work of the author and has been carried out under my direct supervision. The thesis has been prepared according to the prescribed format for the award of the degree under codal procedure of the University. To the best of my knowledge the thesis is based on original research.

SEEMI WAHEED

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DECLARATION

I, Ayesha Haroon, MS scholar at School of Governance and Society, University of Management and Technology, Lahore hereby declare that the present thesis titled “The myths and reality of religious terrorism – A case study of Pakistan” has been written by me and is my original and personal work.

Dated

Signature of Deponent

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ABSTRACT

The concept of religious terrorism developed at the time of independence because objective resolution passed in 1949 without the consultation of minorities. It was opposed and criticized by the minority leaders that this resolution contained the basic principles of Islamic political system. So, the unintended consequences of this resolution created a seed of religious terrorism on the communal ground. This resolution has encouraged the use of religion against any sect to create terrorism in the name of religion. The violence of sectarianism was the first step towards religious terrorism in Pakistan. The Ahmadi movement was leading step towards sectarian war. It started and grabbed the country into sectarian war. Thereafter, the Shia sect became the main target because after declaring Ahmadi as non-Muslims, the so called religious cleric declared Shias in the category of non-believers. The next kind of religious terrorism is very complex because it states itself and projects themselves as Jihadi organizations, who are involved in Indian held Kashmir because Kashmir cause is the national narrative of Pakistani state. Although, 9/11 and war on terror are considered real wave of terrorism in this region but it is the reality that Pakistan has been indulged in religious terrorism. The global war on terror actually made two perceptions about terrorism; the war between Islam and West and U.S forces come for its own interest but gradually things went wrong and instability became the destructive factor across Pakistan. This research examines that how religious terrorism has been initiated in Pakistan. This research has selected five religious terrorist organizations. Each organization has different type of approach towards terrorism but religion is the main triggering factor because it gives the legitimation to use of violence. The five terrorist organizations Lashkar e Jhangvi, Jundallah, Lashkar e Taiba, Jaish e Mohammad and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan describe different patterns of violence. Lashkar e Jhangvi and Jundallah are sectarian based organizations that kill Shia Muslims as Shias are non-believers in the eye of these organizations. The state used Jihadi groups to liberate Kashmiri

Freedom movement in their own interest and now these organizations are working independently. TTP and its ethno religious terrorism is confronting state and using religion as an opportunity to motivate people. The reality is religious terrorism often marginalized with the terminology of conspiracy, western propaganda and an effort to destabilize Pakistan. There is no doubt that terrorism is caused by religion in Pakistan.

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List of Acronyms

SATP	South Asia Terrorism Portal
ICG	The International Crisis Group
GTD	Global Terrorism Database
NCTC	National Counterterrorism center
LeJ	Lashkar e Jhangvi
LeT	Lashkar e Taiba
JUD	Jamaat ud Dawa
JeM	Jaish e Mohammad
TTP	Tehrik e Taliban Pakistan
AQ	Al Qaeda
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
OBL	Osama bin Laden
IEDs	Improvised Explosive Device
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
LEAs	Law Enforcement Agencies
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PIPS	Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies
RAW	The Research and Analysis Wing (Indian Intelligence Agency)
SSP	Sipah e Sahaba Pakistan
TNSM	Tehreek e Nafaz e Shariat e Mohammadi

CHAPTER: 01

INTRODUCTION

Introductory

Since the attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001, Pakistan has come to be regarded as the world's epicenter of terrorist activity committed in the name of Islam (Murphy, 2013).

The word terrorism has been reported when Pakistan itself had involved in state-sponsored terrorism during the period of 1980s. This period highlights religious terrorism in the context of sectarian violence, Islamization, and Islamist militancy (Racine, 2015). Pakistan came into being in the name of religion; however, three specific major political developments occurred which has described terrorist phenomenon in the country on the bases of religious differences (Ahmed, 2011). First, the military dictatorship of General Zia ul-Haq who made ruthless policies of government from 1977 to 1988.