

Pakistan's National Security: An Analytical Study

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Abstract

The main theme of the research is to analyze the concept of national security. The study focuses on the factors relating to the national security and its implications. It also highlights the internal and external factors directly and indirectly threats towards the Pakistan's national security. The approach is descriptive and analytical. The sources are original and secondary. The findings and suggestions are in the end.

Key Words: National Security System of Pakistan, Challenges, Measures

Introduction

National security is the multi-dimensional phenomenon. It covers the wide range. Accordingly, in order to possess national security, a nation needs to possess economic security, energy security, environmental security, etc. National security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power projection and political power.

Security threats involve not only conventional foes such as other nation-states but also non-state actors such as violent non-state actors, narcotic cartels, multinational corporations and non-governmental organizations; some authorities include natural disasters and events causing severe environmental damage un this category.

Definitions

A typical dictionary definition, in this case from the Macmillan Dictionary, defines the term as “the protection or the safety of a country's secrets and its citizens” emphasizing the overall security of a nation and a nation state (Macmillan dictionary). “The distinctive meaning of national security means freedom from foreign dictation.”(Arnold Wolfer, 1960). According to the definition of the National Defense College of India,” National Security is an appropriate and aggressive blend of political resilience and maturity, human resources, economic structure and capacity, technological competence, industrial base and availability of natural resources and finally the military might.”(Proceedings of seminar, 1996). Harold Brown, U.S. Secretary of defense from 1977 to 1981 in the carter administration, enlarged the definition, “National Security then is the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory, to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its borders” (Harold brown, 1977). Gen.Maxwell Tyler's essay of 1974 titled “The Legitimate Claims of National security” has this to say: “The national valuables in this broad sense include current assets and national interests, as well as the sources of strength upon which our future as a nation depends. Some valuables are tangible and earthy; others are spiritual or intellectual. They range widely from political assets such as the Bill of Rights, our political institutions and international friendships, to many economic assets which radiate worldwide from a highly productive domestic economy supported by

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rich natural resources. It is the urgent need to protect valuables such as these which legitimizes and makes essential the role of national security” (Taylor, 1974).

There are several measures to ensure national security as follows;

- Using diplomacy to rally allies and isolate threats
- Marshalling economic power to facilitate or compel cooperation
- Maintaining effective armed forces
- Implementing civil defense and emergency preparedness measures.
- Ensuring the resilience and redundancy of critical infrastructure
- Using intelligence services to detect and defeat or avoid threats and espionage. And to protect classified information
- Using counterintelligence services or secret police to protect the nation from internal threats (Wikipedia)

A Case Study of Pakistan’s National Security

Pakistan emerged as nation-state on 14 August, 1947. The newly born state faced several problems. The nature of those problems is social, economic, political and most important of them was defense and security problem. The security threats were faced just after getting independence. The neighbor countries reluctant to grant recognition to the newly born state. India declared Pakistan as first class first enemy. The agenda of its foreign policy was to destabilize Pakistan in its every sector. The root cause of its enmity was Kashmir. Afghanistan and Iran had reservations on the boundaries of Pakistan.

Pakistan’s ideology believes on national and international peace and security. Despite of its peace loving foreign policy, it became the victim of aggression three or more times. The first war Oct 1947 to Nov 1948 was over Kashmir dispute. India took the issue to the UN Security Council, which resolved that Kashmir problem be decided by a plebiscite under UN auspices. Having agreed to the implementation of UN resolution, India resiled from its obligations, and having consolidated its military hold over Kashmir, claimed that UN resolutions were outdated and that Jammu and Kashmir was its integral part.

The overriding concern of Pakistan’s national life is security, both internal and external i.e. country’s defense from inimical forces from within and without. It goes without saying that Pakistan is peaceful country. Pakistan actively seeks a peaceful international order. It has firmly adhered to the terms of the UN Charter and UN Declaration of human rights. It adheres to the principle that any territorial acquisition by force is totally inadmissible. (Ayaz Ahmed Khan (Air Marshal (Retd) p.1-6)

The 1965 war was also over Kashmir. In 1971 having carried out intensive subversion in East Pakistan, India exploited the opportunity of the century to dismember Pakistan. These events are an unforgettable part of the nation’s history, and have a bearing on peoples’ psyche. Normalization of relations with India is desirable, but unlikely in the present scenario. Indian hostility, intentions and attitudes, and enhanced military preparations have a direct bearing on Pakistan’s national security.

The war in Afghanistan was a dangerous period for the national security of Pakistan. Now Pakistan is facing serious traditional and non-traditional threats of violent extremism, sectarianism, terrorism and militancy. This has adversely affected economic stability and social harmony and continues to instill a sense of insecurity among the people at large. Subversive activities and a pattern of targeting the national security apparatus and key installations by the terrorists and non state armed groups have compounded the challenge. Terrorist networks lurk in shadow and thrive on a strategy of invisibility and ambiguity. They operate in an ideologically motivated network of networks to embroil the State on Physical, psychological and ideological levels.

Terrorism has not only affected the socio-cultural environment but it has also damaged the scarce existing infrastructure in Pakistan by way of frequent attacks on educational institutions, healthcare facilities, communication networks and supply of energy within the country.

Pakistan National Security Council

Pakistan National Security Council (NSC) is a federal institutional and consultative body chaired by the Prime minister of Pakistan. The NSC is a principal forum that is mandated for considering national security and foreign policy matters with the senior national security advisors and Cabinet ministers. The idea of National Security Council was first conceived by Yahya Khan President of Pakistan in 1969.

Its function was to advise and assist the President and Prime minister on national security issues and on foreign policy of the state. The idea of this institution remains highly debatable and controversial in Pakistan's political science circles who argues that the NSC provides legal cover for expanding the role and influence of the military science circles in nation's public and political science affairs to subdue the popular democratic transitional process in the country. (PILDT)

NSC was re-created by President General Pervez Musharraf in April 2004. The NSC was not active since 2008. The first National Security Advisor was Tariq Aziz who was appointed in 2004 and was preceded by Major General (Retd) Muhammad Durrani in 2008. The NSC was abandoned by the government of Pakistan Peoples Party with a unified conformation from the Parliament, and its functions has been taken under control by the Defence Cabinet Committee as of 2009.

Structure of NSC

Permanent Officiates,

Chairman, Prime Minister of Pakistan

Members

- Minister of Defense
- Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Minister of Interior
- Minister of finance
- Minister of Law and Justice

National Security Advisors

- Military advisor (Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee)
- Intelligence Advisor (Director General Intelligence)

Military Leadership

- Chief of Army Staff
- Chief of Air staff
- Chief of Navy Staff

Additional participants

- Attorney General of Pakistan
- Ambassador to the United Nations
- Leader of the Opposition

Functions

The council serves as a forum for consultation for the president and the federal government on matters of national security including the sovereignty, integrity, defence, and security of

the State and crisis management in general. It may also formulate recommendations to the president and the federal government in such matters. The idea of NSC has been roundly and widely criticized by the influential civilians and leading political parties in the country.

New Development

JID (Joint Intelligence Directorate) recommended a single point agenda to end terrorism, urban defence and preemptively protect the country. Also new technologies are to be introduced. Intelligence sharing, intelligence coordination and actionable intelligence have significantly improved.

- Other than Terrorism/ Counter-terrorism Objective, the 33 separate agencies of Pakistan would keep working on their specific agendas against internal and external threats.
- An ISD (Internal Security Division) is being established to strengthen coordination between all the civil armed forces of the country

Pakistan government has finally approved a new national security policy. According to the first- ever national security policy document, close to 50,000 people were killed in Pakistan among them over 5000 personnel of the law-enforcement agencies since the country joined the so-called US-led war on terror after 9/11 attacks in 2001.

The document goes on to estimate the total loss to economy in the last ten years because of terrorism at \$78 billion (Asian Union, 2014). The policy seeks to revamp the National Counter Terrorism authority. Under the plan, a directorate of internal security will be established to ensure better coordination among the country's intelligence agencies.

Text of National Security Policy 2014-18

This first ever National Internal Security Policy (NISP) is formulated to protect national interests of Pakistan by addressing critical security issues as well as concerns of the nation. It is based upon principles of mutual inclusiveness and integration of all national efforts and includes three elements

- Dialogue with stake holders
- Isolation of terrorist from their support systems,
- Enhancing deterrence and capacity of the security apparatus to neutralize the threats to internal security of Pakistan.

Internal security environment is dominated by non-traditional threats of extremism, sectarianism, terrorism and militancy. In present form, the internal security apparatus is inadequately equipped and enormously strained to tackle these threats. This elucidates the dire need for a comprehensive and inclusive response plan, as no single state agency is capable of dealing with such threats on its own.

Whereas it is critical to define the composite picture concerning threats to the national security, NISP essentially remains focused on Internal Security (NIS) paradigm, however, would be incomplete without identifying its linkages with the external diplomatic initiatives and various other dimensions of human security, in some parts of the country hostile networks have also challenged the writ of the State. None the less, national security apparatus including Ministry of defence (MOD) is dealing with this situation under political oversight. Other, relevant state institutions will address social, economic, environmental and external security aspects.

Objectives of the NISP

To create a safe environment where life, property, civil liberties and socio-economic rights of the citizens are protected and the people of Pakistan are able to live and prosper in harmony, freedom respect and dignity as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

To establish the writ of the State and protect the people from all internal threats. To protect the life, property and fundamental rights of the citizen of Pakistan. To promote pluralism, freedom, democracy and a culture of tolerance. To prevent deter and contain threats to internal security in a transparent accountable and just manner. To peacefully resolve and manage disputes with hostile elements without compromising the rule of law (Asian Union, 2014).

Conclusion

It is concluded in the light of above discussion that; the National security requires integrated efforts through an institutionalized monitoring framework under democratic leadership to elicit support and cooperation of local and international stakeholders. Sustainable and integrated development for rehabilitation of affected regions is fundamental collaboration with respective provincial governments. Although such efforts are already in place but need vigorous follow up for timely implementation and quick impact.

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