



“Cross Border Terrorism” Examining the India-Pakistan Relationship

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to provide an in-depth examination of cross-border terrorism in the context of the India-Pakistan relationship. The historical backdrop, geopolitical factors, and socio-cultural dynamics that have shaped the bilateral ties will be explored. The research initiative will investigate the underlying factors that lead to cross-border terrorism, looking at the function of state and non-state actors, ideological drivers, and the effects of local and international pressures. Furthermore, the study will examine the counterterrorism measures and actions that India and Pakistan have implemented, evaluating their efficacy and the obstacles faced in reducing the danger. The goal of the project is to provide policymakers and experts on international relations with a more nuanced knowledge of the intricate dynamics surrounding cross-border terrorism in the context of India and Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

One enduring and divisive feature of the complicated relationship between India and Pakistan has been cross-border terrorism. This type of terrorism, which has its roots in past conflicts and territorial disputes, has a big impact on the political, diplomatic, and security dynamics in the area. The long-standing source of animosity between the two countries, the Kashmir problem, has served as a hub for the operations of several terrorist organizations that Pakistan is purportedly funding. The use of asymmetric tactics, such as terrorist attacks and insurgency, has added a layer of complexity to the already strained relations between India and Pakistan. This study will examine cross-border terrorism in the context of the India-Pakistan relationship requires a comprehensive overview that delves into historical, political, and security dimensions. This introduction sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the historical context, key incidents, international responses, and ongoing efforts to address the challenge of cross-border terrorism in the context of the India-Pakistan relationship.

LITERATURE REVIEW (BOOK REVIEW)

"India, Pakistan and the Kashmir Dispute: On Regional Conflict and Its Resolution" by Robert G. Wirsing:

While "India, Pakistan and the Kashmir Dispute: On Regional Conflict and Its Resolution" by Robert G. Wirsing primarily focuses on the broader Kashmir dispute, it does discuss elements related to cross-border terrorism in the context of India and Pakistan. Here are some key points regarding cross-border terrorism as they may be touched upon in Wirsing's work. The book likely addresses the historical context of insurgency and militancy in the Kashmir region, exploring how these elements have been intertwined with the broader Kashmir dispute. This includes an examination of the role of militant groups in the region, some of which operate across the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan.

1. **Proxy Warfare:** Given the historical involvement of various non-state actors and militant groups in the Kashmir conflict, Wirsing may discuss the concept of proxy warfare. This involves the support and use of non-state actors by state actors, particularly Pakistan, in the context of the Kashmir conflict.
2. **Cross-Border Infiltration:** The book may delve into instances of cross-border infiltration, where militants infiltrate from one side of the Line of Control to the other. The discussion may cover the implications of such infiltration for regional security and the dynamics between India and Pakistan.
3. **Counterterrorism Efforts:** Wirsing might analyze the counterterrorism efforts by both India and Pakistan in response to cross-border terrorism. This could include examining the effectiveness of military strategies, intelligence operations, and diplomatic initiatives aimed at addressing terrorism-related challenges.
4. **International Perceptions and Involvement:** The book may discuss how the issue of cross-border terrorism in the Kashmir region has been perceived by the international community. This could involve an examination of international efforts, or lack thereof, to address the cross-border dimensions of the conflict.
5. **Impact on Regional Stability:** The book might explore the broader regional implications of cross-border terrorism emanating from the Kashmir region. This includes its impact on the overall stability of South Asia and the relationships between India and Pakistan with neighboring countries.
6. **Prospects for Resolution:** Wirsing could discuss the challenges and opportunities for resolving the issue of cross-border terrorism in the context of the broader Kashmir dispute. This might involve examining the role of international mediation, diplomatic initiatives, and the willingness of both countries to address the root causes of terrorism.

It's important to note that while Wirsing's book is likely to touch upon these aspects, a comprehensive understanding of cross-border terrorism in the India-Pakistan context may require additional readings specifically dedicated to the subject. The issue is multifaceted, involving historical, political, and security dimensions, and scholars may choose to explore these aspects in more detail in dedicated works on terrorism and security in the region.

Chapter-1

Definition and Characteristics of Cross-Border Terrorism

In this chapter we'll study about:

- . Cross-Border terrorism and its specific characteristics in the context of the India-Pakistan relationship.
- . Explore how non-state actors, often with alleged support from state actors, engage in acts of terrorism across the shared border.

Cross-border terrorism refers to acts of terrorism that are organized, started, and led by terrorist organizations or individuals from one nation to cause unrest, fear, and violence in another are referred to as cross-border terrorism. When referring to the phenomena of non-state actors carrying out terrorist actions across the common border between India and Pakistan, frequently with purported support from elements within a neighboring state, one is explicitly referring to cross-border terrorism in the context of the relationship between India and Pakistan.

Key Characteristics of Cross-Border Terrorism in the India-Pakistan Relationship:

1. **Proxy Warfare:** Cross-border terrorism often involves the use of non-state actors, acting as proxies, to advance the strategic interests of the state providing support. In the India-Pakistan context, Pakistan has been accused of supporting and using militant groups as proxies to pursue its objectives, especially in the disputed region of Kashmir.
2. **Asymmetric Tactics:** Guerrilla warfare, suicide bombs, and targeted killings are examples of asymmetric tactics that terrorist organizations commonly use when conducting cross-border operations. These strategies aim to terrorize, kill, and destabilize the area they are intended for.

3. **Kashmir as a Flashpoint:** Between India and Pakistan, the disputed region of Kashmir acts as a hub for cross-border terrorism. Both nations assert their sovereignty over the area, which fuels ongoing hostilities and gives terrorist activity a backdrop.
4. **Supportive Infrastructure:** In order for cross-border terrorism to occur, the nation where the terrorists operate frequently needs to provide training facilities, safe havens, and logistical support. There have been claims of the existence of similar infrastructure on the Pakistani side of the border in the relationship between India and Pakistan.
5. **Deniability and Plausible Deniability:** Effective deniability is a method used by states that sponsor cross-border terrorism to formally disclaim any knowledge or participation in terrorist organizations' operations. States are able to disassociate themselves from the activities of non-state actors as a result.
6. **Impact on Bilateral Relations:** The bilateral relations between India and Pakistan are significantly impacted by cross-border terrorism, which can result in diplomatic difficulties, military standoffs, and recurring conflict escalation. Largescale terrorist attacks frequently lead to a breakdown in communication and an uptick in hostilities.
7. **International Dimension:** The problem of cross-border terrorism between India and Pakistan affects more than just the two countries; it is gaining attention and support on a global scale. Preventing the escalation of violence and promoting a peaceful resolution to the disagreements between the two states is of great significance to the international community.

Understanding these characteristics is crucial for analyzing and addressing the challenges posed by cross-border terrorism in the India-Pakistan relationship, as it involves a complex interplay of political, security, and diplomatic factors. The India-Pakistan relationship is greatly impacted by cross-border terrorism, which complicates an already delicate and complex dynamic. To meet this challenge, cooperation, persistent diplomatic efforts, and a dedication to settling underlying conflicts—especially the Kashmir issue—is required. To promote communication and provide the means for conflict resolution in the area, the international community is essential.

How non-state actors, often with alleged support from state actors, engage in acts of terrorism across the shared border?

Non-state actors engaging in acts of terrorism, often with alleged support from state actors, represent a complex phenomenon with significant implications for regional security. This dynamic is especially noticeable in the context of the relationship between India and Pakistan, as certain governments deploy non-state proxies to further their strategic goals due to historical disputes and geopolitical concerns.

The salient features of these non-state actors' cross-border operations are examined in the section that follows:

1. Proxy Warfare and Strategic Objectives:

State actors frequently use non-state entities as proxies to achieve strategic goals in the absence of direct military confrontation. Regarding the relationship between India and Pakistan, Pakistan has been charged with using organizations such as Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as stooges to advance its objectives, particularly in the disputed territory of Kashmir. These organizations serve as tools of statecraft, allowing states to accomplish their objectives and exercise influence while remaining somewhat credible.

2. Deniability and Plausible Deniability:

State actors frequently preserve plausible deniability by formally denying any knowledge of or direct participation in non-state actors' conduct. This calculated tactic enables level of uncertainty that makes it more difficult to place blame or defend retaliatory measures.

3. Kashmir Conflict as a Flashpoint:

The conflict in Kashmir serves as a flashpoint because it highlights the practice of nonstate groups purportedly receiving official support. Pakistan's backing of extremist organizations functioning within the area is perceived as a tactic to contest Indian authority over Kashmir and impact its political and geographical circumstances. The dynamics of the long-running conflict are further complicated by the employment of non-state proxies.

4. Escalation Dynamics and International Repercussions:

When non-state actors participate in terrorist attacks that occur across national boundaries, it may lead to a cycle of escalation. Terrorist strikes may provoke military reactions from the state that is impacted, raising tensions and raising the possibility of international confrontation. Acts of terrorism have worldwide ramifications, including diplomatic tensions, condemnations, and requests for expanded counterterrorism cooperation. The international community keeps a careful eye on these developments. Comprehending the complexities involved in non-state actors' cross-border terrorist activities, which purport to be supported by the state, is imperative in devising efficacious approaches to tackle the underlying causes of conflicts and foster stability. Reducing the effects of these processes and promoting regional security need diplomatic initiatives, international collaboration, and extensive counterterrorism measures.

These non-state actors are effective because of the transnational nature of their operations, plausible deniability, and supportive infrastructure found in sponsoring governments. One such flashpoint where various entities contest territorial control and shape political results is the conflict in Kashmir. Increased international worries, diplomatic tensions, and calls for greater counterterrorism cooperation might result from non-state entities engaging in terrorism across shared borders. Comprehending this intricate dynamic is crucial in devising efficacious tactics to tackle the underlying causes of disputes and foster stability within the region.

Chapter-2

Historical Context: India-Pakistan Relations

In this chapter we'll study about:

- . Historical Evolution of Cross-Border Terrorism between India and Pakistan.
- . Political, Economic and Social factors contributing to cross border terrorism in the India-Pak relationship.

Historical evolution of cross-border terrorism between India and Pakistan is intricately tied to the complex history of the region, marked by the partition of British India in 1947 and the subsequent creation of two independent nations, India and Pakistan. One of the primary catalysts for cross-border terrorism has been the longstanding dispute over the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The first Indo-Pak War, which raged over the Kashmir dispute from 1947 to 1948, sowed the seeds of strife. As a result of the conflict, each nation's sphere of influence is marked by the Line of Control (LoC). This did not, however, ease the underlying tensions. Hostilities were further escalated during the Indo-Pak War of 1965, especially in the Kashmir region. Future tensions were exacerbated by the unsolved Kashmir issue, even after the conflict came to an end with a ceasefire mediated by the US and the Soviet Union.

When Bangladesh was established as a result of the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, a major turning point was reached. The aftermath of this fight had a longlasting effect on the geopolitical dynamics of South Asia and strained relations between India and Pakistan.

The 1979–1989 Afghan–Soviet War significantly influenced the development of cross-border terrorism. In their struggle against the Soviet Union, Afghan mujahideen organizations received help from Pakistan. Some of these organizations did, however, later focus on Kashmir, which aided in the insurgency's emergence there. The Kashmir insurgency, which is defined as an armed uprising against Indian control, began in the late 1980s. During this time, Pakistan provided support to several insurgent groups, and cross-border terrorism increased. When outside militant elements became involved, the situation became even worse.

The 1999 Kargil War, which took place in the Jammu and Kashmir area of Kargil, brought to light the continuous tensions and possible military escalation between India and Pakistan. The war brought the disputed lands' volatility to the attention of the world community.

The Mumbai attacks in 2008, carried out by the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, marked a significant escalation. The attacks strained diplomatic relations, and international pressure mounted on Pakistan to take decisive action against terrorist groups operating from its soil. Later events, including as the 2016 Pathankot and Uri assaults, served to emphasize the ongoing difficulty posed by transnational terrorism. Tensions between the two nations grew as a result of these attacks, which were directed on Indian military installations.

The situation worsened after a terrorist assault in Pulwama, which led to the 2019 Balakot Airstrikes. India attacked purported terrorist bases in Balakot, Pakistan, with airstrikes. The incident set off a series of military exchanges that brought attention to how unstable the Indo-Pak relationship is.

Cross-border terrorism has continued to be a significant obstacle to India and Pakistan's stable relations throughout their turbulent past. The stability of the region is being impacted by the persistent challenges despite continued international efforts and diplomatic measures to address the underlying causes of the disputes and find a durable resolution. To promote a safe and peaceful South Asia, ongoing communication and cooperative actions are still essential.

The stability of the region is impacted by the persistent challenge of cross-border terrorism. Pakistan has been under international pressure to act decisively against terrorist organizations that are based there. Geopolitical concerns, historical grievances, and geographical conflicts have all played a complex role in the history of cross-border terrorism between India and Pakistan.

The pursuit of regional peace and stability continues to face significant obstacles, including the need to address the underlying causes of conflict, find a long-term solution to the Kashmir dispute, and stop the use of non-state actors as proxies.

Political social and economic factors contributing to cross border terrorism India-Pak relationship:

The phenomenon of cross-border terrorism between India and Pakistan is influenced by a combination of political, social, and economic factors.

Understanding these factors is crucial for comprehending the complex dynamics that contribute to this challenging aspect of the bilateral relationship:

Political Factors:

a) Kashmir Dispute: The principal political motivator behind cross-border terrorism continues to be the unresolved and protracted Kashmir dispute. Tension and bloodshed have been exacerbated by territorial claims and conflicting national narratives.

b) Proxy Warfare: An ongoing issue has been the employment of proxy groups by intelligence services to further their strategic objectives in the area. Cross-border terrorism has been exacerbated by official policy instruments such as support for militant groups.

c) Nationalism and Identity: Nationalistic sentiments and identity politics in both countries contribute to a volatile environment. Issues related to sovereignty, national pride, and political legitimacy play a role in shaping policies and public perceptions.

Social Factors:

a) Ethnic and Regional Tensions: Extremist groups can take advantage of ethnic and regional conflicts in both countries, especially in areas like Punjab and Balochista in order to pursue their own agenda.

b) Influence of the Media: Tensions may rise as a result of the media's influence on public opinion and story dissemination. Nationalist feelings can be stoked by aggressive rhetoric and biased reporting.

c) Populations of Migrants and Refugees: Refugees and displaced people, frequently as a result of hostilities, can be at risk of being recruited by extremist organizations. These groups could offer a conducive environment for the dissemination of radical beliefs.

Economic Factors:

a) Economic Disparities: Unrest and dissatisfaction in society can be attributed to economic inequities both within and between India and Pakistan. Extremist organizations may use economic complaints as recruiting techniques.

b) Poverty and Unemployment: Extreme poverty and unemployment, especially in young people, can foster an environment that is favorable to radicalization. Economic issues can be used by militant organizations as a recruiting tool.

c) Effect on Capital Investment: A cycle of economic stagnation can be brought about by persistent security worries and the possibility of cross-border terrorism, which can discourage foreign direct investment and impede regional economic progress.

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