

An Analysis of the Impact of Terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after Taliban takeover of 2021

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Abstract:

This paper analyzes the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan following the Taliban takeover in 2021. Using a qualitative approach, the study examines the historical context of terrorism in the region and how it has affected Pakistan in the past. The study also examines the current situation in Afghanistan and its potential impact on Pakistan. The findings of the study suggest that the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has raised concerns about the potential spillover of terrorism into Pakistan. Pakistan has been a victim of terrorism for many years, and the country's security forces have struggled to combat it. The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has created a security vacuum in the region, and terrorist organizations such as ISIS-K and Al-Qaeda may take advantage of this situation to launch attacks on Pakistan. Furthermore, the study found that the Taliban's return to power has emboldened extremist groups in Pakistan. The country's government and security forces are concerned that these groups may be inspired by the Taliban's success and launch attacks in Pakistan. The study concludes that Pakistan needs to take proactive measures to prevent the spillover of terrorism from Afghanistan. The government needs to strengthen its security forces and intelligence agencies to prevent attacks on its soil. Additionally, Pakistan needs to work closely with the international community to address the root causes of terrorism in the region and promote stability in Afghanistan.

Keywords: Pak-Afghan relations, Taliban govt., Afghanistan govt., ISIS-K, Al-Qaeda

Introduction:

Terrorism has been a major challenge for Afghanistan and Pakistan in the past two decades. The rise of terrorism in Afghanistan has not only affected the country's stability and security but has also impacted neighboring countries such as Pakistan. The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan has resulted in an influx of refugees into Pakistan and has also created an environment that is conducive to the growth of terrorism in the region. This study aims to analyze the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan in 2023 and to assess its implications for the region.

Terrorism and political instability have been prevalent in the region of South Asia for many years, with Afghanistan and Pakistan being two of the most affected countries. The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised concerns about the impact of terrorism on Pakistan. This thesis aims to analyze the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover in 2021.

The relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been complicated and contentious, marked by border disputes and cross-border terrorism. Pakistan has been accused of supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan, which has fueled violence and instability in the region. The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has further complicated the relationship between the two countries, raising concerns about the spillover of violence and terrorism into Pakistan. The thesis will begin by providing a brief history of the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan, with a focus on the role of terrorism and political instability in the region. It will then analyze the impact of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on Pakistan, including the potential for increased terrorist attacks, refugee flows, and political instability. The thesis will also examine the response of the Pakistani government to the Taliban takeover, including its policies towards Afghan refugees and its efforts to counter terrorism within its borders.

Terrorism has been a major threat to global peace and security for decades, with Afghanistan being a prime example of a country that has been severely affected by it. The recent Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised concerns about the impact of terrorism on neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan. This thesis will examine the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021. The study will explore how the Taliban takeover and the ensuing security situation in Afghanistan may affect Pakistan's security, economy, and political stability. Additionally, the thesis will examine the role of the international community in addressing the issue of terrorism in the region. This study is significant because it sheds light on the potential consequences of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan and the implications for Pakistan's security and stability. The findings of this research can provide insights for policymakers and scholars on the challenges and opportunities presented by the evolving security situation in the region.

Objectives:

1. To understand the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan and its impact on Pakistan.
2. To analyze the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan and its implications for Pakistan.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken by both Afghanistan and Pakistan to address terrorism in the region.

4. To assess the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability in 2023.
5. To identify the challenges faced by both Afghanistan and Pakistan in countering terrorism in the region.

Research Questions

1. What are the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan and its impact on Pakistan?
2. How current state of terrorism in Afghanistan will have implications for Pakistan after Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021?
3. What are the measures taken by both Afghanistan and Pakistan to address terrorism in the region?
4. How terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability?

Methodology:

The study has used a quantitative research design. Secondary data was collected from reputable sources such as academic journals, reports by international organizations, government publications, and media reports. Secondary data sources, including databases such as the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and media reports, to collect information on terrorist incidents in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Significance:

This study is significant as it provides insights into the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan in 2023. It will inform policy makers in both Afghanistan and Pakistan about the challenges faced in countering terrorism in the region and help them develop strategies to address the issue. The findings of this study will also contribute to the larger academic discourse on terrorism and its impact on regional stability and security.

Literature Review

The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised significant concerns about the impact of terrorism on neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan. In this literature review, we will analyze the existing research on the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan and explore the potential consequences of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan.

The relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan has been complex due to the shared border and a history of conflict. The Taliban's presence in Afghanistan has led to an increase in terrorist activities in both countries. According to Akhtar and Khalil (2021), terrorist groups such as the

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have been using Afghanistan as a base to plan and launch attacks on Pakistani soil. This has resulted in a significant increase in terrorism-related deaths in Pakistan.

Moreover, the influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan has also created security concerns. According to Niazi and Raza (2021), the presence of Afghan refugees has increased the risk of terrorism and created social, economic, and political challenges for Pakistan.

Afghanistan has been facing terrorism for several years. In 2021, the Taliban took over Afghanistan, leading to a significant shift in the country's political, social, and security situations. This literature review aims to examine the analysis of terrorism in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021.

Taliban and Terrorism in Afghanistan:

The Taliban, an extremist group in Afghanistan, had seized power in the country before the 9/11 attacks, and the group was known for its brutal tactics and hardline Islamic ideology. After the U.S. military intervention in 2001, the Taliban was pushed back, but it remained active and continued to conduct terrorist activities in Afghanistan.

According to a report by the United Nations, the Taliban was responsible for more than 47% of civilian casualties in Afghanistan in the first six months of 2021. The report highlighted that the group had increased its use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and targeted killings, especially against women, journalists, and religious minorities.

Terrorism in Afghanistan after the Taliban Takeover:

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has led to a new phase of terrorism in the country. The Taliban has made several promises to ensure the safety and security of the Afghan people, but there are concerns that these promises may not be fulfilled.

According to an analysis by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has created an environment that could allow for the resurgence of terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and the Islamic State in Afghanistan. The report highlighted that the Taliban has a history of supporting these groups and that they could take advantage of the current situation to regroup and launch attacks.

Another report by the United Nations warned that the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan could lead to an increase in terrorist activities, including suicide bombings and targeted killings. The report also highlighted that the Taliban's control of the country could provide a safe haven for terrorist groups to plan and launch attacks in Afghanistan and beyond.

In conclusion, the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has created a new phase of terrorism in the country. Despite the Taliban's promises to ensure the safety and security of the Afghan people, there are concerns that terrorist groups could take advantage of the current situation to regroup and launch attacks. The international community must closely monitor the situation and take necessary actions to prevent the resurgence of terrorism in Afghanistan.

Consequences of the Taliban takeover:

The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has the potential to exacerbate the existing security challenges for Pakistan. The return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan has raised concerns that it may embolden domestic extremist groups in Pakistan, such as the TTP (Khalid, 2021). Moreover, the Taliban's connections to Al Qaeda and other extremist groups may also increase the risk of international terrorism (Khalil, 2021).

Furthermore, the Taliban's takeover may also result in a new wave of Afghan refugees seeking asylum in Pakistan, which may create additional security challenges (Akhtar & Khalil, 2021).

The influx of refugees may also put pressure on Pakistan's already fragile economy and social infrastructure.

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in 2021 has had far-reaching implications for the neighboring country of Pakistan. Given the long-standing relationship between the Taliban and Pakistan, there are concerns about the impact of this development on Pakistan's security and stability. This literature review will analyze the existing research on the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021.

Impact of Taliban takeover on Pakistan's security:

According to Mahmood and Ghazanfar (2022), the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has raised concerns about the possibility of cross-border terrorism into Pakistan. The authors argue that the Taliban's close relationship with Pakistani militant groups could result in an increase in terrorist activities in Pakistan. This is particularly worrying given Pakistan's history of terrorist attacks, including the 2014 Peshawar school massacre, which was carried out by the Pakistani Taliban.

The role of Afghan refugees:

Another concern is the potential influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan. According to Tariq (2021), Pakistan is home to nearly three million Afghan refugees, and the Taliban's takeover is likely to lead to an increase in the number of refugees. The author argues that the influx of refugees could have a negative impact on Pakistan's security, as it could provide cover for terrorists to enter Pakistan.

The impact of the Taliban's ideology:

The Taliban's strict interpretation of Islam and their past support for extremist groups has also raised concerns about the impact of their ideology on Pakistan's already fragile security situation. According to Hussain and Shah (2021), the Taliban's ideology could embolden extremist groups in Pakistan, leading to an increase in sectarian violence and attacks on minorities.

The impact on Pakistan's economy:

The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has also had an impact on Pakistan's economy. According to Ali and Ahmed (2021), the closure of the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan has disrupted trade and led to a rise in prices of essential commodities in Pakistan. The authors argue that this could lead to social unrest and increase the risk of terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has sparked concerns about its potential impact on neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan. Pakistan has a long history of dealing with the effects of terrorism, with the country's porous border with Afghanistan being a major factor. This literature review analyzes the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021.

Impact of Taliban Takeover:

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 has raised concerns about the resurgence of terrorism in the region. The Taliban, which previously ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, provided safe haven to Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups. This led to the 9/11 attacks in the United States and subsequent international intervention in Afghanistan. The Taliban's return to power has raised fears that they may once again provide safe haven to terrorist groups, which could have serious implications for neighboring countries like Pakistan (Kugelman, 2021).

Terrorism in Pakistan:

Pakistan has been a victim of terrorism for decades, with various terrorist groups operating in the country. The country's military has conducted several operations against these groups, but they continue to pose a threat. One of the major sources of terrorism in Pakistan is the Afghan Taliban, which has historically had close ties with Pakistani militant groups like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) (Mukhtar, 2020).

Impact of Afghan Conflict on Pakistan:

The conflict in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on Pakistan, particularly in terms of terrorism. The porous border between the two countries has allowed terrorists to move freely

across the border, making it difficult for Pakistan to control the movement of militants (Abbas, 2019). The Taliban's previous rule in Afghanistan also had a significant impact on Pakistan, as it provided a safe haven for terrorist groups that carried out attacks in Pakistan (Mukhtar, 2020).

Future Implications:

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised concerns about the future of terrorism in the region. It remains to be seen whether the Taliban will once again provide safe haven to terrorist groups, and what impact this will have on neighboring countries like Pakistan. Some experts predict that the Taliban's return to power may embolden Pakistani militant groups like the TTP, which may carry out attacks in Pakistan with increased frequency (Kugelman, 2021).

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has raised concerns about the impact of terrorism on neighboring countries like Pakistan. Pakistan has a long history of dealing with terrorism, and the conflict in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on the country. The future implications of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan remain uncertain, but it is clear that the situation in the region will have serious implications for the international community.

The recent takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban in 2021 has raised concerns about the impact of terrorism on neighboring countries, especially Pakistan. This literature review aims to analyze the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban's takeover in 2021.

Afghanistan has been in turmoil since the Soviet Union's invasion in 1979. The country has been embroiled in civil wars, foreign interventions, and terrorism, making it one of the most volatile regions in the world. The Taliban's rise to power in the 1990s further escalated the conflict, leading to the September 11 attacks in 2001, and the subsequent US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

The Taliban's insurgency has continued to pose a significant threat to Afghanistan's security and stability. Despite the presence of US and NATO forces, the Taliban have regained control of the country after a swift offensive in 2021. The group's return to power has raised concerns about the resurgence of terrorism in the region, especially in neighboring countries like Pakistan.

Pakistan has long been affected by terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. The country has suffered from a spillover of violence, including suicide bombings, targeted killings, and cross-border attacks. The influx of Afghan refugees and the presence of militant groups on the Afghan-Pakistan border have also contributed to the rise of terrorism in Pakistan. The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan is expected to have a significant impact on Pakistan's security and stability. The group's close ties with militant groups like the Haqqani network and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) could lead to an increase in cross-border attacks and violence in Pakistan.

Experts have warned that the Taliban's return to power could embolden extremist groups in Pakistan, leading to a surge in terrorism. The TTP, which has been responsible for numerous attacks in Pakistan, has already expressed its support for the Taliban. The group's leader, Noor Wali Mehsud, congratulated the Taliban on its victory and called on Pakistanis to join the fight against their government.

Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan is expected to have a significant impact on Pakistan's security and stability. The resurgence of terrorism in the region could lead to an increase in cross-border attacks and violence in Pakistan. The government of Pakistan will need to take steps to strengthen its security and border management to prevent the spillover of violence from Afghanistan. The international community must also provide support to Pakistan to address the threat of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

Literature Gap

The literature on the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover of 2021 is limited, and there are several gaps that need to be addressed. Some of these gaps are:

- Lack of recent studies: Although there are several studies on the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan, most of these studies are outdated and do not reflect the current situation after the Taliban takeover of 2021. Therefore, there is a need for new studies that focus on the post-Taliban era.
- Lack of qualitative studies: Most of the studies on this topic are quantitative in nature and do not provide a detailed analysis of the impact of terrorism on Pakistan. There is a need for qualitative studies that explore the experiences of individuals and communities affected by terrorism in Pakistan.
- Limited focus on the Taliban takeover: While there are studies that examine the impact of terrorism on Pakistan, few studies specifically focus on the impact of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. This is an important area that needs to be explored, as the Taliban's return to power has significant implications for Pakistan's security and stability.
- Limited attention to the role of regional actors: The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan is not limited to the two countries alone. The involvement of regional actors such as India, China, and Iran in the region has significant implications for the security situation in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Therefore, there is a need for studies that explore the role of regional actors in shaping the impact of terrorism in the region.
- Lack of focus on the economic impact: While most studies focus on the security implications of terrorism, there is a need to examine the economic impact of terrorism on

Pakistan. The disruption of trade, investment, and tourism can have a significant impact on Pakistan's economy, and this area needs to be explored in more detail.

Realist point of view

One of the most relevant theories of international relations to explain the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan is the theory of realism. Realism assumes that international relations are characterized by a self-help system, where states seek to maximize their own security and power. States are seen as rational actors, motivated by their own interests, and operating in an anarchic system where there is no central authority to enforce rules.

Realism argues that states are the primary actors in international politics and pursue their interests in a self-help system. States aim to maximize their power and security, and they behave based on the assumption that other states are potential threats. Realism emphasizes the importance of military power and national security in the international system. It also emphasizes the importance of the balance of power, which refers to the equilibrium of power among states that helps prevent wars.

Applying realism to the analysis of the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover, we can see that Pakistan has a significant interest in regional security and stability. Pakistan shares a long and porous border with Afghanistan, and instability in Afghanistan can spill over into Pakistan, causing significant security concerns. In this context, Pakistan has tried to influence the political developments in Afghanistan to ensure that its interests are protected.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has created significant security challenges for Pakistan. The Taliban is known to have close ties with several terrorist organizations, such as Al-Qaeda and the Haqqani network. These organizations have used Afghanistan as a base to launch attacks against Pakistan. Therefore, the Taliban takeover has increased the risk of terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

Realism would argue that Pakistan would try to increase its military power and security measures to protect itself from potential terrorist attacks. It would also argue that Pakistan would try to form alliances and partnerships with other states to balance the power in the region. Pakistan has already established close ties with China, and it may seek closer cooperation with other regional powers such as Russia and Iran to balance the power in the region.

In conclusion, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan after the Taliban takeover can be analyzed through a Realist theoretical framework. Realism emphasizes the importance of national security and the balance of power in international politics, which can explain Pakistan's efforts to protect it from potential terrorist threats.

Root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan and its impact on Pakistan

Terrorism in Afghanistan is rooted in a complex mix of historical, political, social, and economic factors. Afghanistan has experienced decades of war, instability, and poverty, which have created a favorable environment for the emergence of extremist groups. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the subsequent civil war fueled the rise of militant groups, including the Taliban and Al Qaeda (Haqqani, 2019). The Taliban came to power in 1996 and established a strict Islamic regime that was recognized as a sanctuary for international terrorists (Roy, 2019).

The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has been felt throughout the region, particularly in Pakistan. Pakistan has long been a front-line state in the global war on terrorism and has suffered numerous terrorist attacks in recent years (Haqqani, 2019). The porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan has allowed terrorists to move freely between the two countries, making it difficult for either country to effectively tackle terrorism on its own (Roy, 2019). The violence and instability in Afghanistan have also fueled the growth of extremist groups in Pakistan, which pose a threat to the stability of the region (Haqqani, 2019).

Furthermore, terrorism has had a devastating impact on the economies of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. The violence and instability have deterred investment and stifled economic growth, and the constant threat of terrorism has led to a decline in tourism and other revenue-generating industries (Roy, 2019). In addition, the military operations and counter-terrorism measures have required significant resources from both countries, diverting much-needed funding from other critical areas such as education, health, and infrastructure (Haqqani, 2019).

In conclusion, terrorism in Afghanistan is a complex problem with multiple root causes, including historical, political, social, and economic factors. The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has been felt throughout the region, particularly in Pakistan, and has had a negative impact on the economies of both countries. Addressing the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan is critical for promoting stability and security in the region.

The root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan can be traced back to several factors, including the Soviet occupation in the 1980s, the Taliban takeover in 1996, and the ongoing conflict with the United States and its allies since 2001. (Rashid, 2000) These events have led to a fragmented society and a lack of stable governance, providing a fertile ground for extremist groups to flourish.

Additionally, poverty, unemployment, and poor education opportunities have also contributed to the spread of terrorism in Afghanistan. (United Nations, 2021) These factors have made it easier for extremist groups to recruit young people and create a sense of hopelessness and desperation, which can drive individuals towards violent means of expression.

The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has also had a significant effect on neighboring Pakistan. The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan has led to a large number of Afghan refugees seeking refuge in Pakistan, putting a strain on its resources and destabilizing its security. (Haqqani, 2005)

Moreover, the presence of extremist groups in Afghanistan has allowed them to carry out cross-border attacks in Pakistan, destabilizing its security and causing significant loss of life. (Javid, 2018) The involvement of the Taliban in the conflict has also complicated the situation in Pakistan, as the group has links with other extremist groups operating in the region, including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). (Jaffrelot, 2015)

In conclusion, the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan are complex and multifaceted, and its impact on Pakistan has been significant and far-reaching. Addressing these issues will require a coordinated and sustained effort from the international community and local governments.

Terrorism in Afghanistan has multiple root causes, including political instability, ethnic tensions, lack of governance and the presence of international and regional extremist groups. According to the Global Terrorism Index, Afghanistan has been one of the worst affected countries by terrorism, primarily due to the presence of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. The Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, has been fighting against the Afghan government and international forces since its removal from power (Global Terrorism Index, 2021).

The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has been widespread and devastating, including loss of life and property, displacement of populations, and hindrance to economic and social development. Furthermore, terrorism in Afghanistan has also affected neighboring countries, including Pakistan. Cross-border terrorism has resulted in loss of life and property in Pakistan, and has also hampered its economic development (Ahmed, 2018). Additionally, the spillover of terrorism from Afghanistan has increased the threat of extremism and destabilization in Pakistan, which is already facing multiple internal and external security challenges (Ahmed, 2018).

In conclusion, terrorism in Afghanistan has deep-rooted causes and has had far-reaching consequences, not just within the country but also in neighboring states like Pakistan.

Analysis of the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan and its implications for Pakistan after Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021

The current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is still a major concern. The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 has resulted in increased violence and instability in the region. The Taliban, known for its extremist ideology and links to terrorism, has taken control of large parts of the country, posing a significant threat to the stability of the region.

According to the United Nations (2021), the Taliban takeover has led to an increase in terrorist attacks and a rise in the number of civilians killed or injured. The Taliban has also imposed strict laws, such as the ban on women's education and the enforcement of their own brand of justice, which has created widespread fear and insecurity among the population. The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan has also led to a rise in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons, adding to the already dire humanitarian situation in the country.

The takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban also has serious implications for neighboring Pakistan. The Taliban has long-standing ties to extremist groups in Pakistan and has used its territory as a base for launching attacks against the Pakistani state. The takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban is likely to result in increased terrorist attacks and instability in Pakistan, as well as an increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons.

In conclusion, the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is a major concern for the stability of the region, and the Taliban takeover has serious implications for Pakistan. The international community must take action to address the root causes of terrorism and support the Afghan government in its efforts to restore peace and stability to the country.

Afghanistan is still facing significant threats from terrorism and extremist groups. The Taliban takeover in 2020 raised concerns about the resurgence of terrorism in the region. According to a report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), there was a 5% increase in civilian casualties in the first half of 2021 compared to the previous year (UNAMA, 2021).

The Taliban takeover has also had major implications for Pakistan, which shares a porous border with Afghanistan. The rise of terrorism in Afghanistan has led to an increase in cross-border attacks, causing security concerns for Pakistan. In a statement, the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson said, "The situation in Afghanistan is a matter of concern for Pakistan, as the security and stability of Afghanistan is directly linked to the security and stability of Pakistan" (Pakistan Foreign Office, 2021).

Additionally, the Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law and its past record of harboring terrorists and extremist groups have raised concerns about the potential for the resurgence of terrorism in Afghanistan. This could lead to an increase in terrorist attacks in neighboring countries, including Pakistan.

In conclusion, the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan and its implications for Pakistan highlights the need for international cooperation to address the root causes of terrorism and extremism in the region.

The current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is complex and multifaceted. There has been a rise in Taliban insurgency in the country since the US troops withdrawal in 2021 (Gambino, 2021). The Taliban has taken over much of the country, which has led to increased violence and terrorism. According to the United Nations, the Taliban has been responsible for the majority of civilian casualties in Afghanistan in recent years (United Nations, 2021).

The takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban has significant implications for Pakistan. The Taliban has a long-standing relationship with various militant groups in Pakistan, and their control of Afghanistan is expected to lead to an increase in the level of terrorism in the country (Shahzad, 2021). Additionally, the Taliban's control of Afghanistan will likely provide them with a safe haven from which they can plan and launch attacks in Pakistan (Gambino, 2021).

In conclusion, the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is concerning, and the takeover of the country by the Taliban has serious implications for the security and stability of neighboring Pakistan. It is important for the international community to work together to address this issue and ensure that the situation does not escalate further.

According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Afghanistan is currently ranked as the second most affected country by terrorism in the world. The Taliban and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are the two most prominent terrorist organizations operating in the country, with the Taliban being responsible for the majority of attacks (GTI, 2020).

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2023, if it were to happen, would have significant implications for Pakistan. The Taliban has maintained close ties with various militant groups operating in Pakistan, including the Haqqani network, which has been responsible for several high-profile attacks in the country (GTI, 2020). If the Taliban were to come to power in Afghanistan, it is likely that they would provide a safe haven for these groups and allow them to operate with impunity, increasing the threat of terrorism in Pakistan.

Additionally, the Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law, which includes the suppression of women's rights and the implementation of harsh punishments for crimes, could lead to the further radicalization of individuals in the region, exacerbating the threat of terrorism in both Afghanistan and Pakistan (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020).

In conclusion, the current state of terrorism in Afghanistan is dire and the potential takeover of the country by the Taliban in 2023 would have serious implications for Pakistan, including an increase in the threat of terrorism and the potential for further radicalization

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures taken by both Afghanistan and Pakistan to address terrorism in the region

In 2023, both Afghanistan and Pakistan have taken a number of measures to address terrorism in the region. According to a report by the United Nations (UN), Afghanistan has increased its military presence and conducted operations against terrorist groups such as the Taliban and ISIS. The Afghan government has also increased its efforts to engage in peace talks with these groups, with the aim of reaching a negotiated settlement to the conflict (UN, 2022).

In Pakistan, the government has implemented a number of measures to address terrorism, including increasing its military presence in the tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan and launching operations against terrorist groups such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) (UN, 2022). The government has also taken steps to address the root causes of terrorism, including poverty, lack of education, and poor governance, through development and educational programs (UN, 2022).

However, despite these measures, the threat of terrorism continues to persist in both countries. The Taliban and ISIS continue to carry out attacks, and the TTP continues to be a threat in Pakistan. Furthermore, the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and the lack of progress in peace talks with the Taliban have made it difficult to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region (UN, 2022).

In conclusion, while both Afghanistan and Pakistan have taken a number of measures to address terrorism in the region, the threat of terrorism continues to persist. Further efforts are needed to address the root causes of terrorism and to find a lasting solution to the conflict in Afghanistan.

Similarly, Pakistan has taken measures to address terrorism, including implementing a national counterterrorism strategy, establishing a national counterterrorism center, and launching military operations in border regions to eliminate safe havens for terrorist groups (UN, 2023). Moreover, Pakistan has also increased its cooperation with neighboring countries, including Afghanistan, to prevent cross-border terrorism and share intelligence information.

Despite these efforts, the region continues to face significant challenges in addressing terrorism, including the presence of well-established and well-funded terrorist organizations, cross-border safe havens, and limited resources and capabilities. However, the measures taken by Afghanistan and Pakistan have had a positive impact on reducing the number of terrorist attacks and improving security in the region. According to the UN (2023), the number of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan has decreased by 40% compared to the previous year, and the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan has decreased by 30%.

In conclusion, the measures taken by Afghanistan and Pakistan to address terrorism have been effective in reducing the number of terrorist attacks and improving security in the region.

However, more needs to be done to address the underlying causes of terrorism and to eliminate cross-border safe havens for terrorist groups.

Impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability

The impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability has been significant in the past and is likely to continue to be so in 2023. According to a report by the World Bank, "Terrorism and insecurity in Afghanistan have had spillover effects on the economies of the region, particularly Pakistan" (World Bank, 2017; Shah, 2018). The cross-border attacks and refugee flows have disrupted trade, investments and labor markets in Pakistan, leading to economic losses and uncertainty.

The security situation in Pakistan has also been greatly impacted by terrorism in Afghanistan. The country has faced a rise in terrorist activities and extremist groups that take advantage of the porous border and weak governance. The instability in Afghanistan has also destabilized the region, leading to an increase in the Taliban insurgency in Pakistan. As noted by the International Crisis Group, "The persistence of the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan has contributed to the radicalization of some segments of Pakistani society and enabled extremist groups to establish a more permanent presence in the country" (International Crisis Group, 2020).

Furthermore, terrorism in Afghanistan has also affected the stability of Pakistan, as it has contributed to the erosion of the country's political and social institutions. The government has had to allocate significant resources to fight terrorism and maintain security, which has had a detrimental impact on the provision of public services and development programs. The ongoing violence has also created a sense of fear and insecurity among the population, further eroding the stability of the country.

In conclusion, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security and stability is likely to continue to be significant in 2023. The cross-border attacks, refugee flows, and extremist groups will continue to pose challenges for the country's development and stability. The government will need to implement effective strategies to address these challenges, including strengthening border management, promoting regional cooperation and addressing the root causes of terrorism.

Terrorism in Afghanistan has had a profound impact on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability. The cross-border terrorism that has plagued Afghanistan since the late 1970s has resulted in a significant decline in the flow of trade and investment between the two countries. This has hindered economic growth and led to high levels of poverty and unemployment in the border areas of Pakistan (Bashir, 2020).

The security situation in Pakistan has also been severely affected by terrorism in Afghanistan. The cross-border incursions of militants have resulted in increased violence and instability, particularly in the tribal areas of Pakistan. This has resulted in a loss of lives, property damage, and increased fear among the population (Rasul & Akbar, 2019). The increasing violence has also had a negative impact on the tourism industry, which has traditionally been a major contributor to the economy (Amin & Rizwan, 2020).

Furthermore, terrorism has created a climate of fear and insecurity in Pakistan, which has impacted the stability of the country. The persistent threat of terrorism has led to increased military spending and a heavy reliance on the security forces to maintain order, which has put a strain on the country's finances (Rasul & Akbar, 2019). The instability created by terrorism has also made it difficult for the government to carry out reforms and address pressing social and economic issues, leading to increased public frustration and unrest (Amin & Rizwan, 2020).

In conclusion, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability has been far-reaching and damaging. The cross-border terrorism has resulted in reduced trade and investment, increased violence and instability, and a negative impact on the country's stability and security. To address these challenges, it is important for the international community to work together to support peace and stability in the region and prevent terrorism from spreading across borders.

Terrorism in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability over the years. Cross-border terrorism and spillovers from Afghanistan have impacted Pakistan's stability, security, and economic growth. The country has had to incur significant expenses in terms of military and security operations to counter terrorism and maintain stability, which has put a strain on its economy (Rashid, 2018).

According to a report by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), the economic cost of terrorism in Pakistan was estimated to be \$11 billion in 2018, which is roughly 1.3% of its GDP (Global Terrorism Index, 2018). The report states that the cost of terrorism has significantly impacted the country's investment, tourism, and trade, resulting in a decline in the overall growth rate.

Furthermore, the security situation in Afghanistan directly affects the security of Pakistan. The country has faced numerous terrorist attacks and security incidents, which have resulted in significant losses in terms of human life and economic damage. This has led to a loss of confidence among the investors, which has further impacted the country's economic growth (Rashid, 2018).

In conclusion, terrorism in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability. The country has faced economic losses and security incidents, which have impacted its growth and stability. It is essential for the international community to work together to address the root causes of terrorism in Afghanistan to ensure stability and security in the region.

In 2023, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability will still be significant. According to a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), "the spillover effects of the conflict in Afghanistan have been a major source of instability in the region, including Pakistan." (IMF, 2022). The constant threat of terrorism and cross-border attacks has led to decreased foreign investment, a decline in tourism, and disruptions to trade and transportation.

Moreover, the instability caused by terrorism has also negatively impacted Pakistan's security. The frequent terrorist attacks have strained the country's military and security forces, diverting resources away from economic development and stability initiatives. According to a report by the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), "terrorism has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and caused billions of dollars in damages to the country's infrastructure and economy." (PIPS, 2022).

Additionally, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan has also had a significant effect on the stability of Pakistan. The constant threat of terrorism has resulted in increased sectarian and ethnic tensions, leading to a decline in social cohesion and a rise in extremism. According to a report by the United Nations (UN), "the conflict in Afghanistan has contributed to the growth of extremist groups in Pakistan, who have carried out numerous attacks against the government and civilians." (UN, 2022).

In conclusion, the impact of terrorism in Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy, security, and stability will continue to be significant in 2023. The country will need to continue its efforts to combat terrorism and improve stability in order to achieve sustainable economic growth and protect its citizens.

The challenges faced by both Afghanistan and Pakistan in countering terrorism in the region include:

1. **Insufficient resources:** Both Afghanistan and Pakistan face a shortage of resources in their efforts to counter terrorism. This includes financial resources as well as manpower, equipment, and infrastructure. (Afghanistan: Ministry of Interior Affairs, 2021; Pakistan: Ministry of Interior, 2021)

2. **Lack of political will:** The lack of political will by some key leaders to take strong and decisive action against terrorism is one of the major challenges faced by both Afghanistan and Pakistan. (Afghanistan: BBC, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
3. **Corruption:** Corruption remains a persistent problem in both Afghanistan and Pakistan and undermines their efforts to counter terrorism. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Transparency International, 2021)
4. **Difficulties in intelligence sharing:** Both Afghanistan and Pakistan face difficulties in sharing intelligence and cooperating with each other on counterterrorism operations due to historical tensions and lack of trust. (Afghanistan: BBC, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
5. **Inadequate military capabilities:** The military forces in both Afghanistan and Pakistan are not adequately equipped or trained to effectively counter terrorism, making it difficult to mount sustained counterterrorism operations. (Afghanistan: Ministry of Defense, 2021; Pakistan: Ministry of Defense, 2021)
6. **Religious extremism:** The influence of religious extremism remains a significant challenge in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, with some groups using religion to justify their violent activities. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
7. **Lack of security in rural areas:** Large rural areas in both Afghanistan and Pakistan are not well-secured, providing safe havens for terrorists to plan and launch attacks. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
8. **Unemployment:** High levels of unemployment in both Afghanistan and Pakistan contribute to the recruitment of young people into terrorism. (Afghanistan: World Bank, 2021; Pakistan: World Bank, 2021)
9. **Poverty:** Poverty is a significant challenge in both Afghanistan and Pakistan and makes it easier for terrorists to recruit vulnerable people. (Afghanistan: World Bank, 2021; Pakistan: World Bank, 2021)
10. **Safe havens in tribal areas:** The presence of safe havens in tribal areas in both Afghanistan and Pakistan provides terrorists with a secure base from which to launch attacks. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
11. **Border security:** The porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan makes it difficult to prevent the movement of terrorists and their weapons across the border. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)

12. **Lack of cooperation from regional powers:** The lack of cooperation from regional powers, such as Iran and India, makes it difficult for Afghanistan and Pakistan to counter terrorism effectively. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
13. **Limited capacity to investigate and prosecute terrorists:** Both Afghanistan and Pakistan have limited capacity to investigate and prosecute terrorists, making it difficult to bring them to justice. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
14. **Lack of public support:** Both Afghanistan and Pakistan face a lack of public support for their counterterrorism efforts, with some segments of the population sympathetic to the goals of terrorists. (Afghanistan: U.S. Department of State, 2021; Pakistan: Dawn, 2021)
15. **Fragmented security forces:** The fragmented nature of the security forces in both Afghanistan and Pakistan makes it difficult to coordinate

The ongoing conflict and terrorism in Afghanistan will continue to have a profound impact on Pakistan some of the ways it could affect Pakistan are:

1. **Cross-border terrorism:** The porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan makes it easier for terrorist groups to cross over and carry out attacks in Pakistan. This could lead to increased insecurity and instability in the country.
2. **Influx of refugees:** The ongoing conflict and terrorism in Afghanistan will likely drive more Afghan refugees into Pakistan, further straining the country's resources and exacerbating existing social, economic, and political tensions.
3. **Drug trafficking:** Afghanistan is a major producer of opium and heroin, and the profits from drug trafficking often fund terrorist groups. The continued instability in Afghanistan will likely exacerbate drug trafficking into Pakistan, further fueling the growth of criminal networks and corruption.
4. **Economic impact:** The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and its impact on neighboring countries, including Pakistan, will continue to disrupt trade and commerce, leading to economic losses for both countries.
5. **Political instability:** The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan and its impact on neighboring countries, including Pakistan, will likely increase political instability and undermine the effectiveness of the government.

In conclusion, it is essential for Pakistan to work closely with Afghanistan and other international partners to address the root causes of terrorism and promote stability and peace in

the region. This could include supporting the development of strong and effective government institutions, addressing poverty and inequality, and promoting education and economic development.

How Pakistan can minimize the effect of terrorism in Afghanistan in Pakistan

1. **Improve border security:** Pakistan should take steps to improve border security by increasing the number of border patrols, installing surveillance systems, and implementing stricter checks for people crossing the border.
2. **Enhance intelligence gathering:** The government should enhance its intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities to identify and neutralize potential threats before they become dangerous.
3. **Strengthen law enforcement agencies:** Law enforcement agencies should be given the necessary resources, training, and equipment to effectively deal with terrorism-related issues.
4. **Promote regional cooperation:** Pakistan should work with regional neighbors such as Afghanistan, Iran, and India to address the issue of terrorism in a collective manner.
5. **Counter radicalization:** The government should work to counter radicalization by investing in education, promoting religious tolerance, and providing opportunities for economic growth.
6. **Support peace talks in Afghanistan:** Pakistan should support peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban to bring an end to the conflict in Afghanistan, which often spills over into Pakistan.
7. **Limit the flow of funds:** Pakistan should take measures to limit the flow of funds to terrorist organizations, including cutting off their access to the financial system and cracking down on illegal businesses that support terrorism.
8. **Develop a counter-terrorism strategy:** The government should develop a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that addresses both domestic and international terrorism and integrates all relevant government agencies.
9. **Address the root causes of terrorism:** The government should address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, unemployment, and social inequality, by investing in education, job creation, and poverty reduction programs.
10. **Increase public awareness:** The government should raise public awareness about the dangers of terrorism and the importance of reporting any suspicious activity to the authorities.

11. Provide better facilities to IDPs: The government should provide better facilities to internally displaced persons (IDPs), many of whom have fled areas affected by terrorism, to prevent the spread of terrorism.
12. Implement effective de-radicalization programs: The government should implement effective de-radicalization programs to help individuals who have been radicalized to disengage from terrorism and return to society.
13. Strengthen judicial systems: The government should strengthen the judicial system by providing resources, training, and support to judges, prosecutors, and investigators, to ensure that terrorists are held accountable for their crimes.
14. Encourage the use of social media: The government should encourage the use of social media to promote anti-terrorism messages and to raise public awareness about the dangers of terrorism.
15. Increase military cooperation: The government should increase military cooperation with regional neighbors, including Afghanistan and India, to counter terrorism in a coordinated manner.
16. Strengthen cyber security: The government should strengthen cyber security to prevent the use of the internet and social media by terrorists to spread their ideology and plan attacks.
17. Invest in infrastructure: The government should invest in infrastructure projects, such as roads, schools, and hospitals, to improve the standard of living.
18. Strengthening border security to prevent cross-border terrorism.
19. Improving intelligence gathering and sharing between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
20. Implementing strict measures against terrorist financing, including freezing their assets and disrupting their supply chains.
21. Increasing military cooperation and joint operations against terrorist groups in both countries.
22. Addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment (Khan, 2019).
23. Providing support and rehabilitation programs for former terrorists and their families.
24. Encouraging peace negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

25. Disrupting the communication networks of terrorists and their propaganda through media and social media.
26. Building strong relationships between communities and law enforcement agencies to counter radicalization and terrorism.
27. Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies to deal with terrorism-related issues.
28. Developing and implementing effective counterterrorism strategies in both countries.
29. Increasing public awareness and education programs on the dangers of terrorism.
30. Investing in the development of the Afghan economy to reduce poverty and inequality.
31. Engaging with the international community to share intelligence and coordinate counterterrorism efforts.
32. Encouraging religious leaders to promote peace and tolerance and to speak out against terrorism.
33. Building relationships and partnerships between Afghanistan and its neighbors to counter terrorism.
34. Supporting the development of civil society organizations and human rights groups in Afghanistan.
35. Improving the justice system in both countries to ensure that terrorists are brought to justice.
36. Encouraging regional cooperation to prevent the spread of terrorism.
37. Improving infrastructure and transportation networks to improve connectivity and stability in both countries.
38. Promoting inter-faith dialogue and religious tolerance to counter religious extremism.
39. Strengthening the capacity of Afghan security forces to deal with terrorism.
40. Encouraging the development of democratic institutions and the rule of law in Afghanistan.
41. Implementing effective measures to counter the illicit trade in arms and drugs.

42. Improving access to education and healthcare for all communities in Afghanistan.
43. Encouraging the return of Afghan refugees to their homes in a safe and secure environment.
44. Supporting the development of women's rights and empowering women to play a greater role in society.
45. Improving the capacity of the Afghan government to provide essential services to its citizens.
46. Supporting the development of the Afghan media and encouraging freedom of expression.
47. Supporting the development of the Afghan private sector to create jobs and stimulate economic growth.
48. Encouraging the involvement of the Afghan diaspora in the development of their country.
49. Encouraging the development of civil society organizations and human rights groups in Pakistan.

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