

Mapping Militant Manifestations in Balochistan

Maryam Azam ^{1*}

Abstract

Militant tendencies in Pakistan have been a leading security challenge because of its adverse effects on political, economic, social and ethno-religious landscape of Pakistan. The case of Balochistan explicates the multivariate nature of militant manifestation in which nationalist and separatist aspirations tend to be a major tributary of militancy in Balochistan. The formation of militant groups on nationalistic and religious identities explains the two main sources of militant groups. Their linkages and networking further recognizes their operational capability and presence in the province. Moreover, geographical realities of the province along with its relationship with the federation and weak infrastructure, all contributes in shaping an environment which is conducive to militant tendencies in the shape of low intensity conflict. This article is based on a qualitative analysis which roots out genesis of militancy in Balochistan keeping in view the current changing geopolitical realities. After examining the facts, it is being concluded that traditionally call for separation is the driving force of militancy in Balochistan, however, ever since a decade, certain concentrated pockets of religiously grounded groups have been involved in target killing and suicide bombing.

Keywords: Insurgency, Sectarianism, Militant Groups, Separatism, Grievances, Security

* Dr. Maryam Azam, Assistant Professor in the department of International Relations, Lahore college for women university, Lahore, Pakistan