

Abstract

Sectarianism is an evil. It is an evil of its own kind that it deviates any ideology beyond the popular religious one, and, it detract people from their actual goals moving to other goals that doesn't belong to them. Pakistan has remained in the verge of religious wars since its inception and sectarian militancy had added to that. A more violent blow of religious fundamentalism, in that context, was observed during the regime of General Zia Ul Haq in which Sunni clerics and alike schools of thought were funded in order to create leverage for violence over the Shia community of Pakistan. A number of Sunni clerics were recruited to administrative machinery of Pakistan, to which the Shia community nodded and later demonstrated. In all the scenario, Quetta, a provincial capital of Balochistan, presents a different wave of sectarian violence as a sum total number of Shia community resides in its valley among whom the Hazara community is acceded in number. The previous theoretical and analytical approaches of tracing back the process of radicalization in Pakistan thus lacks its concerning this wave in Balochistan and particularly the city of Quetta. This research attempts at tracing the routes of sectarian militancy in Quetta and most importantly those actors that have been involved in the process of radicalization. Sectarianism in Balochistan and its urban city Quetta has deviated ethno-nationalist movements from their prime cause of relative autonomy in the country to a more violent and radical group fighting the Shia community of the city on the basis of sectarian difference. On the other hand, decrease in sectarian violence in other parts of the country has inverse impacts in Quetta. It is to say that the lessening of violence outside of the province has always boosted violence in the province and in the city of Quetta. Various actors had been involved in doing so to facilitate that sort of violence effecting the Shia community of Quetta. Thus, avoiding short term gains and gaining long term sufferings, this research tries to provide with recommendations regarding government's confrontation with these factions and urges authorities to limit their influences over the political as well as social situation of the province and of the city Quetta.