

Abstract

The research deals with the causes and effects of religious extremism in Pakistan since 1979. In this research, the connection between religion and state policies has been carefully connected that create the basic nature of a country. Religion performs a crucial part in the Pakistan society. Religion has become an unified force and the guiding concept for the constitutional procedure of the country. But at the same time religion produced implicit stress for their future improvements. Religious extremism is an appropriate concept for the case of religious extremism in Pakistan where religious groups become a powerful support of state and sometimes become a threat to the state. The religious extremism in Pakistan creates tussle between the state and extremism group. Other than, the hypothetical statement clears our focusing direction towards the topic of research. Also, research deals with the various literature review to all the aspects with the existed information and content. The other main part of the research thesis deals with the reasons behind the rise of militancy and religious extremism in Pakistan. In Pakistan, militancy and extremism is a complicated issue. Since long, Pakistan have been considered among those countries that have been center of religious extremism. Pakistan has been considered as a cause and also victim of militancy and extremism in the international community. The issue is further complicated by political parties. They not only make electoral alliances with radical groups but also preach the same sectarian hate when in need of public support against their political opponents. Religious extremism is a global issue that need to explore all the factors including social, economic, political, religious and sectarian factors behind it. All these factors are interrelated and are more important to understand this issue. The rise of militancy and extremism started with the invasion of Afghanistan by USSR. This Afghan war was interpreted as a jihad with the support of USA and Saudi Arabia. With the end of this war, extremism was penetrated in Pakistan. Kalashnikov culture was promoted. Society was being divided on religious bases between Shia and Sunni. The religious conflicts on sectarian base were increased. The national and international policies have also promoted religious extremism. USA interference in Pakistan policies specially after 9/11, 2001 created rise of religious extremism in Pakistan. The rise in population and economic deprivation leads to social evils. Pakistan have done its efforts in countering extremism. Without tackling polarization, it is difficult to win a war against extremism. The last and comprehensive part of research is precise one, based on analytical conclusion. Concisely, the whole research topic has highlighted the factors behind religious extremism in Pakistan and possible solutions to eliminate the menace of extremism.