

ABSTRACT

Pakistan is facing an unprecedented threat of terrorism that has cost her huge socio-economic and life loss. However, the seeds of terrorism were sown in the decade of 1980s when state of Pakistan made an instrumental use of religion to build a jihadi narrative to fight USSR in Afghanistan. Moreover, its coincidence with the Iranian revolution and dominance of Shia ideology created a sectarian friction between Sunni dominated Gulf countries and Shia dominated Iran. This wave of sectarianism trickled down in Pakistan leading to violence. However, its fresh and the most fiendish manifestation were observed after 9/11 in Pakistan. The study has attempted to critically analyze the issue of terrorism in Pakistan in its historical connection and state response to it.

The study has explored secondary sources including books and journal articles. Through analysis, the study concludes that it was circumstantial compulsion for Pakistan to make instrumental use of religious narrative; however it was a mistake not to disarm those groups. Moreover, in context of terrorism in Pakistan, it is observed that the type of threat was unprecedented that led to a confused response on the behalf of the state. Moreover, a repeatedly mistake that was committed regarding the military operations includes surrendering the gains of operations by signing peace agreements with militants on weak grounds. This practice not only strengthened the militants but also inflicted huge loss to Pakistan. However, the study concludes that the military operations which were conducted with full political ownership and their gains were maintained produced effective outcomes in terms of reduction of terrorist activities. The study suggests that the recent operations against terrorism (Operation Zarb e Azb and Operation Radd ul Fasaad have) proved quite effective to fight the menace of terrorism and the study suggests keeping up the same approach of hitting terrorists, their abettors, and sympathizers without any distinction.