

Research Article

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# Socio-Economic Implications of Non-Traditional Security Threats in Pakistan from 2008 to 2024

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to examine the socioeconomic implications of non-traditional security threats in Pakistan from 2008 to 2024, with a special focus on terrorism, extremism, sectarian conflict, ethnic conflicts, and structural socioeconomic challenges. Throughout this time, Pakistan observed repeating periods of violence and instability, which harmed national growth and social stability. Terrorist operations and extreme ideas not only killed and displaced people, but they also stopped economic productivity, reduced investor confidence, and taxed state resources. Meanwhile, structural difficulties such as inflation, unemployment, poverty, corruption, and rising social inequality increased public anger and worsened governance challenges. The study highlights the link between security and socioeconomic stability, stating that suffering peace in Pakistan requires fair governance, institutional changes, and continual investments in the development of people. A comprehensive, multifaceted policy is required to break the cycle of insecurity and create a strong, fair future.

**Key Words:** Extremism, Sectarian Conflict, Social Inequality, Economic Instability, Inflation, Unemployment, Governance, Development

## Introduction

Non-traditional security risks are one of Pakistan's biggest problems. These difficulties are the biggest and greatest roadblocks to the nation's development. The nation's socioeconomic progress has been harmed by safety concerns for a period of time. Additionally, the primary factors influencing Pakistan's political and financial growth were the conflict on dread, terrorism, cybercrimes, water crises, floods, heat waves, mass migration, and food scarcity. Examining the main non-traditional security concerns in the context of Pakistan is the main goal of this work (Javid & Magsi, 2022).

The idea of national security is closely related to the social and political structures of a state. The goal of this expansive idea is to increase a state's authority and sway. An essential component of national security is safeguarding a country's homeland, especially its territory. For a country to ensure national security, a nation has to be able to protect its finances, national interests, and global standing. This concept of security encompasses internal issues that could endanger the state's existence in addition to foreign threats. The safety and protection of people, as opposed to the state's territory, is the focus of human security. People's safety and well-being are prioritized before national objectives (Ali et al., 2023).

## Literature Review

Issues with non-traditional security are one of Pakistan's biggest concerns. These difficulties represent the significant and most pressing hurdle to the nation's development. For a few decades, the nation's

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socioeconomic progress has been negatively impacted by security-related problems (Javid & Magsi, [2022](#)). The study looks at non-traditional security concerns to Pakistan's economy, such as hazards associated with the environment, terrorism, and health, and how they affect human beings' security and economic stability.

Radicalism and extremism provide a non-traditional security danger, and for Pakistan, they peaked after September 11, 2001. The globe was split into two distinct camps after the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center: those who supported the United States and those who did not. It is challenging to describe Pakistan's national security in this severe case (Afzal et al., [2012](#)).

After 9/11, terrorism and extremism have emerged as non-traditional security challenges. This research examines these risks, evaluating their effects on Pakistan's economy, culture, and stability while highlighting the necessity of coordinated and all-encompassing terrorist measures. This study investigates how well deterrence tactics are effective in combating non-traditional security threats to Pakistan, such as cyber-attacks, terrorism, and climate change.

The social and political institutions of a state are closely related to the idea of national security. It is a broad idea meant to increase the authority and clout of a state. For a nation to ensure national security, a nation must be able to protect its economic interests, national interests, and global standing (Ali et al., [2023](#)). During the 21st Century, the nation's sociopolitical stability, economic expansion, and political stability are at risk by alternative security concerns.

Sectarianism has posed an important threat to Pakistan's security, with violence between Sunni and Shia groups causing instability and compromising social cohesion. Afzal et al. ([2012](#)) contend that this split, compounded by the development of violent extremist organizations, damages governance and threatens national stability. Their investigation shows how sectarian disputes, driven by historical, political, and socioeconomic factors, present significant security risks. They make policy recommendations that include fostering religious tolerance, enhancing law enforcement, and addressing factors such as poverty and political marginalization with the goal of preventing sectarian violence and promoting long-term peace and security in Pakistan.

Ethnic conflict has played a major part in determining Pakistan's security issues. Tensions in regions like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa heighten political instability and undermine national cohesiveness. Akhtar and Jan ([2022](#)) investigate how ethnic differences, driven by historical problems, political marginalization, and economic inequality, contribute to security concerns in Pakistan. They argue that these disputes not only undermine official authority but also fuel insurgency movements, destabilizing the country. To resolve these issues and reinforce Pakistan's safety framework, the contributors propose inclusive political reforms, addressing regional disparities and increasing inter-ethnic communication.

This study examines how ethnicity, income, and education interact to generate social disparities in Pakistan. The authors contend that these factors do not function in isolation but rather cooperate to increase the marginalization of specific populations. Munir et al. ([2022](#)) use an inclusivity approach to investigate how ethnic minorities, economically deprived individuals, and those with little access to education address additional impediments to social mobility and equitable opportunity. Their findings underline the importance of targeted policies that address these linked inequities with the goal of establishing a more inclusive and equitable society in Pakistan.

## Material and Methods

This study employs a qualitative research design to explore the impact of non-traditional security threats on Pakistan's socio-economic landscape from 2008 to 2024, given the complex and multidimensional nature of security challenges. An analytical approach is used to assess the extent and nature of non-traditional security threats in Pakistan. The research relies on secondary sources, including government reports, policy documents, books, research articles and newspapers.

## Results and Discussion

### Social Security Threats

The following are Pakistan's social security threats:

#### Terrorism and Extremism

Terrorism and extremism are the most sensitive challenges for Pakistan's national security, so they must be addressed through competent policymaking and implementation. These concerns affect not just foreign relations but also domestic tranquillity, leading to discontent and terrorism in the state (Yaseen & Muzaffar, 2018). Extremism and terrorism are significant concerns for Pakistan. Terrorism in Pakistan is thought to have begun in 2000 and has been spreading ever since. Target killings, radicalization, extremism, and sectarian violence are all common in Pakistan. The Taliban and other terrorist groups receive ongoing backing from Pakistan. Politics, bureaucracy, and the army must cooperate to combat terrorism. The Taliban carried out suicide assaults across Pakistan, particularly in FATA, Swat, Punjab, KPK, and Islamabad. Attacking security forces is their primary goal. Pakistan's economy, security, and education have all been significantly impacted by terrorism (Malik et al., 2019). Terrorism is a complex issue that has a direct impact on society. Human rights violations, discrimination, marginalization, inequality, radicalization, unresolved conflicts, ethnic fractionalization, and political motives are the driving forces behind terrorism and extremism. In addition to taking many lives, terrorism has severely damaged the economy, political stability, and infrastructure (Magsi & Mir, 2024). Terrorism poses ongoing challenges to Pakistan's national security and development. Strategic and coordinated efforts are vital to counter these threats effectively (Abiden et al., 2019).

**Economic Consequences:** Economic progress was severely impacted by the problem of terrorism. Goal killings, wheel jam strikes, and strikes in public areas have a direct impact on how businesses and organizations operate. The immediate consequences of terrorist attacks include building destruction, property loss, and fatalities. The nation's macroeconomic situation is negatively impacted by terrorism. Terrorism reduces international trade, investment, and financial market performance.

**Social Consequences:** The impact of terrorism extends from the individual to the entire society. The majority of households no longer have their breadwinners. Children were left orphaned in these terrorist attacks, and a lot of women became orphans. Security is a major worry for the populace. They suffer from melancholy and a condition called post-traumatic stress disorder. People who have experienced trauma also struggle in their social interactions.

**Political Consequences:** Democracy and political stability are threatened by terrorism. A nation's politics, economy, and international relations are all negatively impacted by terrorism. Pakistan is taking on the issue of fighting the terrorist threat, which has increased since the 9/11 attacks. Terrorism has an impact on how people communicate and respond to this problem, which has repercussions for politics and society.

#### Sectarian Violence

Sectarianism poses a serious risk to Pakistan's security. It has caused chaos, agitation, or ferocity among the community. Suicide bombings, bomb explosions, assassinations, target killings, and terrorist assaults have all grown throughout the past three decades due to sectarian wars. Pakistan has been endangered politically, socially, and economically by the sectarian conflict. Several approaches must be taken in today's world for the nation to advance and prosper. No one can undermine the unity and the country if all the provinces believe that they are Pakistanis, not Sunni, Shia, Deobandi, Ahl-i-Hadith, Qadiani, or Mirzai (Afzal et al., 2012).

#### The Impact of Sectarian Conflict

**Unrest in Economic Development:** The fact that sectarianism impedes economic growth is one of the most significant and grave consequences it has on Pakistan. Pro-Sunni Shia parties have made Pakistan a terrorist state by murdering both Sunnis and Shias. Sectarian terrorist attacks have slowed Pakistan's economic development by lowering international investment and making the country less popular. In the absence of terrorist attacks, Pakistan's real GDP per capita would've gone up by 177% between the years 1973 and 2008 rather than 119% (Munir, 2017).



**Unrest and Social Disorders:** Religious extremism is another major way in which sectarianism is affecting Pakistan, contributing to social unrest and chaos in the nation. People of many ethnicities, languages, and castes make up Pakistan's cosmopolitan society. Sectarian violence and conflicts are on the rise in this heterogeneous society. Pro-arming Sunni-Shia organizations killed both Sunnis and Shias, avoiding the use of fire and target killing. Over 86 instances of Shia-Sunni murders were reported in the Punjab region between 2011 and 2013. Balochistan began evolving into the scene of Sunni-Shia fights in 2011 when over 528 Shias were slain. Over 207 Shia-Sunni murder instances were documented in the province of Sindh between 2011 and 2013 (Munir, [2017](#)).

**The Destroying Vision of Pakistan:** In addition to disrupting Pakistan's economy and creating social unrest and instability, sectarianism is severing the ties that bind Muslims together, which ultimately undermines Pakistan's concept of a single nation. Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the country's founder, bestowed the mottos of Unity, Faith, and Discipline onto Pakistan. However, the Sunni and Shia Muslim populations are now bound together by the curse of discord as a result of sectarian violence that has destroyed their relationships.

### Ethnic Conflicts

Pakistan's unique politics has been heavily shaped by the ethnic political card. In the past, political and military leadership has handled political matters based on ethnicity to further their own political goals. The four provinces that make up Pakistan each have their distinct ethnic identities and advocate regionalism above nationalism. Balochistan, the most problematic region, is undergoing instability as a result of ongoing ethnic insurgency. During 2018, an emerging culture named the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) has gained traction (Akhtar & Jan [2022](#)).

Geographically, linguistically, and ethnically, Pakistan is unparalleled. Ethnic identity and social injustice collide, leading to conflicts. The tie and solidarity between individuals of all castes, creeds, religions, and genders, as well as national integration, are greatly impacted by ethnic conflicts. It is a feeling of fraternity, unity, and social harmony among the people and communities of the country (Sheikh & Gillani, [2023](#)).

**Religion-Based Ethnic Conflict:** Without a doubt, Pakistan's leaders were unable to maintain strong national identities. Due to financial constraints and disparities in wealth between social classes, political education and institutionalization of the populace were not feasible. The government appointed new leaders after the deaths of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah & Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan.

**The Language-based Conflicts:** Language minority politics are the norm in Pakistani politics. In Pakistan, the Pashto, Sindhi, Baloch, Punjabi, Mohajir, and Siraiki languages are used to convey the identities of the Pakhtun, Sindhi, Baloch, Punjabi, and Mohajir peoples. Notably, Pakistani ethnic groups utilized speech as an effective instrument for asserting their dominance and started linguistic initiatives to forge their identities.

**Territorial Issues-Based Ethnic Conflict:** One major factor in the development of a hostile environment between the different ethnic groups in Pakistan's various areas is territoriality. Without ethnicity, people experienced alienation due to the power of a single ethnicity within the governmental system, the states' shared water dilemma, and problems with the National Finance Commission's (NFC) distribution of financial resources.

**Caste-Based Ethnic Conflict:** The baradaris system is deeply ingrained and powerful in caste-tainted Pakistan. The Chaudhris of Gujarat, the Makhdoom of Hala, and the Arains of Toba Tek Singh would all cast ballots for their own relatives. The primary castes and sub-castes are arranged in a chain. Various caste groupings temporarily go dormant before resurfacing under new names. Typically, caste-based disputes are evident during elections (Sheikh & Gillani, [2023](#)).

### Social Inequality

With its federation of four provincial administrative boundaries, Pakistan is diverse in terms of class and ethnicity. The bottom 20% share less than a tenth of the upper 20%'s income. Given the interplay between

ethnicity and class, this scenario is dire. Health scores and average level of education are seen as indicators of social well-being. Ethnicity, wealth index, residential amenities, and demographics all contribute to disparities in health and education. When creating effective policies to lessen horizontal disparities in socioeconomic growth, globalization must be taken into account. Balochi, Sindhi, and Siraiki communities need to improve their income, housing amenities, and educational attainment because they have been shown to exhibit less productive improvements than other populations (Munir et al., [2022](#)).

## **Pakistan's Social Inequality: Key Aspects**

### **Economic Inequalities**

Pakistan's wealth is concentrated within a small few, resulting in severe economic disparity. While rural regions, especially in Balochistan and Sindh, continue to live in poverty, urban centres such as Lahore and Karachi have profited from growth.

### **Inequality of Gender**

In Pakistan, women encounter structural obstacles such as limited access to economic, medical, and educational possibilities. Due to cultural conventions that frequently prohibit women from entering the workforce, female labour force participation has remained stagnant at 20–25%. In traditional and rural regions, gender differences are more noticeable.

### **Educational Inequality**

There are many barriers to accessing high-quality education. While public schools, particularly those in rural regions, lack adequate facilities, qualified teachers, and resources, wealthy families enjoy the advantages of attending prestigious private schools. This gap limits chances for disadvantaged people and extends socioeconomic cycles.

### **Regional Inequalities**

Pakistan's development is not uniform, with certain provinces like Punjab having greater infrastructure and public services than Balochistan and the interior of Sindh. Social instability and attempts to alleviate inequality have been exacerbated by regional neglect, especially in rural and tribal communities.

## **Economic Security Threats**

The following are Pakistan's economic security threats:

### **Economic Instability**

Since the country's founding as an independent nation, Pakistan's economy has encountered numerous difficulties. In the early decades, its economy was mostly reliant on agricultural resources; later, it was reliant on industrial bases. Over the last thirty years, Pakistan's economy has relied on loans and financial assistance from global financial organizations like the IMF to support its industrial development. Following the pandemic, worldwide growth slowed, which had an impact on Pakistan's economy as well. The financial system of Pakistan was significantly disrupted by COVID-19. Prior to the pandemic, gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 2.50% in 2019 and then decreased by 1.27% in the fiscal year 2020. Pakistan's economic problems during the pandemic era included a decline in GDP growth and a rise in fiscal debt to 12.74% in 2020 compared to 2019 (Fatima, [2024](#)). After the worldwide economic downturn, economies showed resilience, with growth bouncing back to an average of almost 5% between 2010 and 2018. In 2002, 64% of people lived in poverty; by 2015, that number had dropped to 24%. During early 2022, foreign exchange reserves fell under \$10 billion, which was insufficient to support purchases for more than two months (George, [2023](#)).

### **Causes of Economic Instability**

**Increasing Debt Amounts:** One of the main causes of Pakistan's present economic crisis is the country's increasing debt levels, mainly its private debts. The government's strong reliance on deficit financing to finance subsidies, state-owned businesses that are losing money, or populist policy initiatives has contributed to the growth in debt levels. Tax receipts as a percentage of GDP have remained stagnant at about 10–12%, which is one of the lowest in the world (George, [2023](#)).





**Long-Term Trade Deficit:** A significant weakness in Pakistan's external account has been the country's decades-long trade imbalances. Pakistan has been unable to make the shift to a competitive, export-focused economy due to structural flaws. Due to its limited export base, lack of product diversification, & poor level of competitiveness, Pakistan's exports have risen slowly.

**Political Unrest and Absence of Reforms:** Pakistan's history of political unrest and inconsistent economic policies has hampered the establishment of robust institutions and the reforms required for steady growth. Tensions between military and civilian authorities, frequent regime changes, and vociferous opposition organizations have made it difficult to reach an agreement on significant reforms.

**Reduction in Investments:** A major contributing element to Pakistan's ongoing growth issues is the drop in both governmental and private investments during the last ten years. Ten years ago, gross fixed capital formation accounted for more than 15% of GDP; now, it only makes for 13%. The decline in both foreign and domestic investment has limited Pakistan's ability to thrive.

### Inflation

Continuous increases in the economy's overall prices are referred to as inflation. When the price index rises, and money loses value, this is known as inflation. For Pakistan, the problem of inflation is of utmost concern because it has broad economic and social ramifications. Economically and commercially, the inflation rate is closely related to the GDP, money supply, exports, import prices, rates of interest, exchange rates, fiscal deficit, government spending, tax income, and so on. In terms of global inflation, 2010–11 was the most significant year (Bashir et al., [2011](#)). Examining the connection between inflation and economic growth is of great interest to economists. Almost all economic players, including producers, investors, and consumers, are impacted by the high rate of inflation when making decisions because they are unclear about the projected outcomes of their choices (Jacob et al., [2023](#)).

Pakistan, like many other nations, has a mix of internal and external factors that contribute to inflation. Although the precise reasons and their relative significance may vary over time, following are some of the main causes of Pakistani inflation in the past.

**Pulling Inflation:** Inflation in Pakistan is mostly caused by the overabundance of demand for goods and services relative to supply. Increased government expenditure, growing consumer demand, or expansionary monetary policies that raise the amount of money in circulation are some examples of the causes of this.

**Price-Driven Inflation:** This kind of inflation happens when firms' higher manufacturing expenses are transferred to customers in the form of more expensive goods. Cost-push inflation in Pakistan is caused by a number of factors, such as growing energy prices, increased import expenses, and pressure on wages.

**Changes in Exchange Rates:** Pakistan frequently experiences exchange rate swings as a result of a number of economic variables. When the value of the Pakistani rupee declines, imports become more costly, raising the cost of imported goods and services and potentially fueling inflation.

**Economic Policy:** In order to keep inflation under management, the State Bank of Pakistan and the national bank must take certain activities. Lowering interest rates or expanding the money supply are examples of expansionary monetary policies that can boost demand but also raise the risk of inflation.

**The Fiscal Policy:** Regulations pertaining to revenue collection and expenditure by the government might affect inflation. Whenever more cash entering the economy, rising prices may arise if the government raises expenditure without matching increases in revenue.

### Unemployment

A major issue, unemployment, is a reflection of the nation's inadequate use of its labour force. In addition to wasting resources, high unemployment causes financial hardship. Developing countries have higher

rates of unemployment, which leads to a number of negative social outcomes, including a threat to national security, death by suicide, killings, and crimes like theft and theft. It impacts not just the people but also, generally speaking, the economic status of the nation. There are more than 177 million individuals living there as well, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, while the country's literacy rate is 58%, based on the 2011–12 Pakistan Economic Survey (Kamran et al., [2014](#)). An economy's high unemployment rate is a reflection of its low earnings and output levels. This demonstrates even more how low the economy's citizens' level of living is. Based on data released by the National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), Pakistan's population grew by 1.80% in 2020, reaching 215.25 million people (Ali et al., [2022](#))

## **Socioeconomic Effects**

### **Life Expectations**

With fewer individuals working from home, the burden on those who do work increases and their quality-of-life declines. If merely one out of five family members is working, the salary will be split among the five. This will significantly lower the family's standard of living.

### **Law and Order**

There is a direct correlation between crime and joblessness rates. That is the precise cause why crime is so prevalent in Pakistan. It is quite improbable that an employee will commit a crime. Just a jobless person has the time and planning necessary to break the law and attempt to get away with it.

### **Mental Disorder**

The pressure from society and the fear of being unemployed are the fundamental causes of unemployment. We are deeply concerned when we are reliant on another person. Our youth's anxiety stems from the fact that the majority of them are unemployed. Our economy cannot give them the employment and fundamental skills they need to make a living. Pakistanis have two main choices: work or start their own business. The unemployment rate is to blame for the stress in society, particularly among young people (Akhter, [2019](#)).

### **Economic Cost in Money**

Because those who work must also pay those who are unemployed, the unemployed put pressure on the economy. A substantial number of jobs prevents the economy from thriving. There is a relationship between the economy and unemployment. Due to unemployment, the economy will suffer, and as the economy decreases, the unemployment rate will continue to climb.

### **Poverty**

Poverty is a worldwide issue. It occurs when people lack the resources necessary to meet their basic demands for survival. The problem, which primarily affects emerging nations, has an impact on their social and psychological well-being (Miankhail, [2009](#)). In 2018, Pakistan's poverty population ratio was approximately 4.4 percent, meaning it falls under the international poor level of \$1.90 per person per day. The UNICEF estimates that 22.8 million children in Pakistan between the ages of 5 and 16 were unable to attend schools in 2016 due to socioeconomic factors. This may also be helpful in comprehending the nation's dire economic situation.

Since poverty constitutes one of the major problems facing any developing economy like Pakistan, it is imperative to look into the macroeconomic factors that influence it. Absolute poverty, according to the UNDP, is when a person lacks access to necessities like clothing, food, shelter, healthcare, education, and clean drinking water. Furthermore, the World Bank defines absolute poverty as being unable to sustain one's level of living; therefore, individuals who make less than USD 1.90 per day are considered to be in it (Ilyas et al., [2024](#)).

### **Reasons of Poverty**

The economy and society have also played a significant role in the rise in poverty. These include the slowdown in the growth of GDP over the last 10 years and the ongoing existence of a regressive social structure brought on by the severely disparate distribution of property. However, the main causes are



problems with effective administration and the deterioration of socioeconomic institutions (Miankhail, [2009](#)).

These general factors are thought to be the root cause of poverty as follows:

#### **Ineffective Leadership**

The primary cause of low business trust, which in turn leads to lower levels of growth and investment, is also inadequate governance, which increases vulnerability. The repercussions of ineffective leadership compound the adverse consequences of underlying problems.

#### **Instability in Politics**

Poor creditworthiness ratings, even when compared to other nations at similar living standards, are an outcome of unstable politics and imbalances in the economy, which has led to capital flight and a decrease in foreign direct investment inflows.

#### **The Trade Deficit Dilemma and Economic Melting**

Economic considerations have also played a role in making life challenging for everyone in society, except the wealthy. The primary factor contributing to the rise in impoverishment is a decline in the GDP growth rate.

#### **Insufficient Education and Widespread Illiteracy**

There is a widespread belief that the poor quality of education in this nation represents one of the primary causes of impoverishment because the foundation of any economic growth is correlated with the level of education and skills of its human capital.

#### **Corruption**

Corruption threatens the stability and security of the world through impeding growth in the economy, eroding democracy and human rights, eroding confidence in public institutions, enabling illicit activity and the government, and draining private resources. Conversely, corruption acts as a market-balancing mechanism in a management model that is primarily unorganized. Although there is an irrational economic justification for giving and taking on an individual basis, the financial toll on society is enormous (Shahzad, [2024](#)).

#### **Impact on the Economy**

##### **High Levels of Corruption**

When considering the financial ramifications of corruption, the detrimental impacts of widespread misconduct become evident right away. Large-scale corruption associated with certain dictators and their cronies may involve the misappropriation of significant amounts of public funds, and the ensuing waste, injustice, and poor management can have disastrous consequences for an economy (Myint, [2000](#)).

##### **Growth of the Underground Economy**

Every nation has underground economic activity. There are two kinds of them. First, there are some that are prohibited, such as participating in the trafficking and drug trade. The second group comprises lawful activities that are not officially recorded, either avoidance of taxes or other reasons.

##### **Distribution of Income**

The wealthy and well-connected profit economically from a crooked system. By definition, economic rent is monopolistic or anomalous profits that have the potential to provide significant advantages. As a result, a small percentage of the population tends to hold the majority of the wealth.

##### **Effect on Investment**

It is believed that corruption has a particularly negative impact on private investment, both domestically and internationally, in emerging nations. Bribes might have to be given even when investments happen or before talks to establish a company begin.



### **Costs to Society**

Each city has regulations and laws in place to protect the general public and advance social goals, including building codes, restrictions on the environment, traffic laws, and prudent banking regulations. Violation of these rules for financial gain by dishonest means might have detrimental social effects.

### **Conclusion**

From 2008 to 2024, Pakistan faced a complex web of non-traditional security challenges, which had a significant impact on its socioeconomic environment. Terrorism, religious extremism, sectarian violence, and ethnic tensions damage human lives while also weakening public trust, discouraging investment, and disrupting national harmony. When mixed with ongoing challenges such as corruption, inflation, unemployment, and rising poverty, these risks created an endless cycle of instability that impacted long-term growth. Social inequality grew further as poor neighbourhoods faced the weight of both violence and unemployment. The past several years have highlighted the critical need for a comprehensive national policy that prioritizes social justice, institutional reforms, and inclusive economic growth while also understanding that true security extends beyond borders and weapons to address the basic causes of social insecurity.

### **Recommendations**

- ▶ Improving governance and transparency will reduce corruption and promote long-term stability. This will increase public trust and create an environment that promotes economic progress.
- ▶ A comprehensive strategy for fighting terrorism and extremism requires law enforcement and de-radicalization efforts. Addressing fundamental causes of violence, such as poverty and unemployment, can help to lessen it and promote solidarity.
- ▶ Reducing social inequality through education, healthcare, and job opportunities encourages inclusive growth. Strengthening marginalized populations promotes an equal and happy society.
- ▶ Job creation in essential areas, as well as economic stabilization through inflation control and foreign investment, is critical. Supporting small enterprises will contribute to long-term job creation and economic stability.
- ▶ Investing in education, job training, and youth programs is critical to fighting unemployment and extremism. Offering youth with skills will result in a more productive workforce and societal stability.
- ▶ Addressing climate change through resilient infrastructure and sustainable practices is critical for stability. Effective resource management will protect vulnerable populations while also promoting long-term socioeconomic development.
- ▶ Community policing approaches help lessen ethnic and sectarian tensions by promoting trust and safety. Strengthening social cohesiveness through regional cooperation contributes to national peace and stability.
- ▶ Expanding healthcare access and social security systems will improve people's lives and help to eliminate poverty. Enhancing social protection will alleviate socioeconomic issues and avert unrest.
- ▶ International collaboration in fighting terrorism and instability will give financial and technical assistance. Engaging with global partners speeds up Pakistan's journey to stability and development.



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