



# AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE OF THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN BALOCHISTAN

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## ABSTRACT

*The aim and objective of this study was to analyze the fundamental cause of the separatist movement in Balochistan. In this study, the exploratory research design was used. The historical facts are retrieved from the international journals. The Mendeley desktop and Mendeley reference manager was used for the referencing. The APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition referencing style was used. The study concluded that the situation in Balochistan is very complex and day by day it is worsening. There is no sign of government rule in the province. The target killing, kidnapping for ransom, enforced disappearance, explosions, sectarian violence and attacks on the government installations is happening in usual.*

**KEY WORDS:** Balochistan; Separatist Movement

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The origin of the Baloch as a group of nomadic pastoralist tribes and their evolution into a national entity has been puzzling for observers of events in Central Asia and Middle East. On the origin of the Baloch in the ancient times, the thread running through is the migrations of the Balashchik (later the Baloch). (Dashti, 2012)<sup>1</sup> The history of the Baloch has been lost in the dust of history due to various reasons. Only some passing references can be found in classical Persian descriptions of ancient times. Baloch came into contact with the British when they occupied Punjab and Sindh in the nineteenth century. The only tools left for establishing the origin of such a people can be the linguistic and cultural connections. This was mainly due to the unavailability of documented evidences, which could have been used to fit the Baloch in the larger schema of the Iranian national entities and languages. Balochistan has experienced cycles of political compromise and the growth of the Baloch ethnicity. Baloch sub-nationalism has received support from nations hostile to Pakistan in its violent form. In the past, an external component has been a significant one that many onlookers overlook. Pakistan will also need to deal with the concerns of provincial rights, autonomy, and a fair share of the province's natural resources more effectively. The importance of an external factor, which many observers tend to overlook, in the case of earlier Baloch insurgencies cannot be overstated. (Akhtar, 2017)<sup>2</sup> The

Pakistani government must create a thorough political plan to make sure that the Baloch people once again believe that their government is legitimate. Antagonism between the ethnic Baloch population and the federal government has a long history that dates back to the 1947 partition of India. The establishment of an effective governmental and educational system is the best long-term plan to end the persistent strife in Balochistan. (B.Sh.Muhammad, 2014)<sup>3</sup> India's engagement in Balochistan and other regions of Pakistan is proof that it does not want Pakistan to be a strong military and economic nation. Pakistan maintains a close eye on the unrest in the region and has assured China that the Pakistan Army will protect the CPEC. On the basis of the Pakistani dossier, the UN is urged to censure India. (Khetran, 2017)<sup>4</sup> Insurgency has been the hallmark of Balochistan turmoil for decades. Pakistan has to formulate its counterinsurgency policy to combat this violence and terrorism. The political leadership should be facilitated to bring the angry Baloch leaders back to table. The armed forces and especially the FC must work to improve its image in Baluchistan. (Gilani, 2017)<sup>5</sup> An analysis of emerging Pakistani-Iranian ties by the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre includes a section on cross-border insurgency. Kupecz (2012) provides a conflict analysis of the insurgency in Pakistan's Balochistan province. A journal article by Pande (2016) has a brief section on bi-lateral relations between Pakistan and Iran with respect to the Baloch insurgency. (Bakrania, 2017)<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dashti, N. (2012). Baloch Balochistan. www.trafford.com%0A

<sup>2</sup> Akhtar, N. (2017). Balochistan Conflict: Internal and International Dynamics. Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences (PJSS), 37(1), 190–202.

<sup>3</sup> B.Sh.Muhammad. (2014). Dynamics of the Nationalist Insurgency in the Balochistan Province of Pakistan. Пути К Миру И Безопасности, 1, 50–74.

<sup>4</sup> Khetran, M. S. (2017). Indian Interference in Balochistan : Analysing the Evidence and Implications for Pakistan. Strategic Studies, 37(June 2015), 112–125

<sup>5</sup> Gilani, S. M. S. (2017). Counterinsurgency in Balochistan in the Long View. Pakistan Journal of Criminology, 9(3), 133–142. <http://search.proquest.com/openview/0b0a66058fa2ffec5c4252029554ebab/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=2034993>

<sup>6</sup> Bakrania, S. (2017). Cross-border conflict drivers and breaks – Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. 1–17.



## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The previous authors have explored on historical facts about Balochistan separatist movement. Some important facts are discussed as under: There have been four clashes between Pakistani and Baloch soldiers since partition. The first two were brief, occurring in 1948 and 1958, respectively. The third and fourth conflicts brought on by separatism happened in 1962 and 1973, respectively. The political elite of Baluchistan has assimilated with mainstream parties like PPP and PML-Q. (Hussain, 2013)<sup>7</sup> The Islamic Republic of Iran's government and the Baloch people have been at war ever since Pakistan annexed Balochistan in 1947. This thesis contributes to discussions on conflict and education politics in Baluchistan, Pakistan. It does this to make it easier to appreciate the conflict's many historical contexts. In order to aid in the understanding of the conflict's many causes, this thesis contributes to discussions on the politics of education and conflict in Balochistan, Pakistan. (Faiz, 2015)<sup>8</sup> Balochistan is Pakistan's smallest and least developed federating unit, while being the largest province in terms of geographic extent. Balochis' suffering has led to a series of uprisings in Pakistan against the federal government throughout the years. Unfortunately, the Baloch people have developed a number of serious grievances as a result of their isolation from Pakistan's mainstream politics. (Javaid, 1987)<sup>9</sup> After 2005, Balochistan had been experiencing political unrest. The report of the parliamentary committee on provincial autonomy outlined a number of difficulties and offered numerous suggestions for public policy. The package suggested that the concurrent list be repealed, the CCI and NFC's operations be streamlined, army units be withdrawn from the Sui area, and cantonment building be put on hold. (Nazir, 2008)<sup>10</sup> For Afghanistan and other landlocked Central Asian nations, Gwadar port may serve as a conduit for international trade and energy transit. Baloch nationalism has spread throughout society and is no longer just practiced by Nawabs and Sardars. Despite this, internal divisions along ideological and tribal lines have frequently caused their political leaderships to fail. Balochistan's political climate at the moment is characterized by two competing tendencies. The renowned warrior Sher Mohammad Marri declared in the early 1990s that "Baloch nationalism has permeated the public and is not restricted to the Nawabs and Sardars alone." (Breseeg, 2001)<sup>11</sup> There are three nations that practice baloch nationalism: Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Each nation has Baloch nationalist organizations like the PRMI, BLA, and PNLA. The Baloch

people have converted to several religions over the course of history, from Zoroastrianism to Islam. The Baloch people, who are Central Asian Kurds, are compelled to reside in three separate Islamic nations. Anderson argued that there was a second system, called the dynastic realm. On the other hand, the Baloch people have persisted in uniting around the Kalat as a nationalistic symbol, especially those in Pakistan. (Hernandez, 2012)<sup>12</sup> According to the president of the Balochistan Union of Journalists, Hammad Siapad, the Resident Editor of the Jang Quetta newspaper, Mr. Akhtar Mirza, was subjected to intense pressure from militant organisations and was threatened with imprisonment for an extended period of time. As a result, he suffered cardiac arrest and died. According to him, we had included his name on the list of journalists who had been assassinated because he had been murdered as a result of the threats issued by terrorist organisations. Journalism in Balochistan is difficult, and journalists are faced with fresh challenges on a daily basis. (Niaz et al., 2020)<sup>13</sup> Monitoring Balochistan's human rights conditions by the U.N. could be a limited but effective instrument for keeping pressure on Pakistani authorities. Despite hostility from Pakistan's security establishment, India must take the lead in promoting the Baloch cause, offer crucial diplomatic backing, and intervene. The United States might be hesitant to settle this dispute until after its troops have been safely evacuated from Afghanistan. The sole purpose of Chinese mediation will be to guarantee the safety of the CPEC projects. The European Union has little sway in the region, and Chinese mediation will be restricted to ensuring the security of the CPEC projects. The United States may be unwilling to mediate on this issue until after its soldiers have been safely removed from Afghanistan. (Arya, 2020)<sup>14</sup>

## 3.0 METHODOLOGY

In this research, the historical facts are critically examined and explored. The Mendeley desktop and Mendeley reference manager was used for the review of literature. The referencing was performed in the APA (American Psychological Association) 7<sup>th</sup> edition. The exploratory research design was used to drag the previous facts about the said study.

## 4.0 CONCLUSION

Strategically Balochistan is the most important region not only for Pakistan but for South and Central Asia as well. It is encompassing a rare combination of weather, resources and topography. There are three main ethnic communities in the

[https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/13057/K4D\\_HDR\\_Cross-Border\\_Conflict\\_Drivers\\_PK-AF-IR-IQ.pdf?sequence=1](https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/13057/K4D_HDR_Cross-Border_Conflict_Drivers_PK-AF-IR-IQ.pdf?sequence=1)

<sup>7</sup> Hussain, M. (2013). Rising Nationalism in Pakistan as a Tool of Public Administration. *The Dialogue*, VII(2), 186–202.

<sup>8</sup> Faiz, J. (2015). Politics of education, conflict and conflict resolution in Balochistan, Pakistan. February. <https://westminsterresearch.westminster.ac.uk/item/9v617/politics-of-education-conflict-and-conflict-resolution-in-balochistan-pakistan>

<sup>9</sup> Javaid, U. (1987). Concerns of Balochistan: Effects and Implications on Federation of Pakistan Umbreen. *Journal of Political Studies*, 1(2), 113–125.

<sup>10</sup> Nazir, M. (2008). Federalism in Pakistan: early years. August.

<sup>11</sup> Breseeg, T. M. (2001). Baloch Nationalism: Its Origin and Development up to 1980.

<sup>12</sup> Hernandez, E. (2012). Balochistan and Nationalism. In Thesis Report.

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.832.4964&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Niaz, B., Hassan, A., & Irtaza, S. (2020). Role of Media in Minimizing Religious Extremism and Ethnic Instability in Balochistan, Pakistan. *Global Regional Review*, V(IV), 12–20. [https://doi.org/10.31703/grr.2020\(v-iv\).02](https://doi.org/10.31703/grr.2020(v-iv).02)

<sup>14</sup> Arya, S. (2020). Baloch Nationalism : International Perspectives and Support. *SPRING*, 130–138.



region with indigenous roots to this land i.e. Brahui, Baloch and the Pashtunes. The situation in Balochistan is very complex and day by day it is worsening. There is no sign of government rule in the province. The target killing, kidnapping for ransom, enforced disappearance, explosions, sectarian violence and attacks on the government installations is happening in usual. The capital city, Quetta has been the main target. The situation is so dangerous that the province is moving toward anarchy. The people are not safe in their homes. The sectarian violence in Balochistan has increased in the recent time. The attacks on the Shai community in Quetta which killed at least 89 peoples leaved the city with grief. Same types of attacks have been occurred many times and occurring at regular intervals. This attack on the Shai sect is considered to be the most dangerous attack causing many deaths and leaving many people injured. The present insurgency in Balochistan is the output of mistrust among the political forces and the insurgents. The political forces who want to solve the problems through peaceful means i.e. through negotiation with in the constitution of Pakistan. On the other hand, the insurgents believe in the violence. They want to solve the problem by force through unconstitutional means. Political will is required to bridge the gulf between the insurgents and government. Make them sure that their rights will be delivered to them under the constitution and they will be given more opportunity to improve their living standard. There should be no role of the intelligence agency in the political affair of the province, so that the political forces should make their own decisions in a political domain. The role of agencies must be restricted to the law and order situation and other safety measures. In Balochistan particularly, their role is increasing day by day. The nationalists have always complained about this increasing influence of the agencies. Sardar Akhtar Mengal arrived to Pakistan after the self imposed exile and presented his six points in the Supreme Court of Pakistan in which he criticised the role of agencies in the province. The extra judicial and enforced disappearance in the province is the most volatile issue needed to be resolved wisely. This menacing practice should be stopped as it is enhancing the mistrust of the people on the security agencies and enhance the hatred with the state. Anyone involved in the charges should be produced in the court to face and defend his charges. If he is found guilty should be punished. This will improve the image of the security agencies and reinstate the trust of the masses. Another equally important thing is to enhance the participation of Baloch people in every walk of the life. Provide them the opportunity to settle down their own problems. The ongoing mega projects in the province should have opportunities for the Baloch people. The main concern of the Baloch people is that their ethnic dominance is decreasing and according to their estimate one day, they will become minority in their own province which is a point of concern for them. The social structure of Balochistan is continued to be based on the tribalism. Let them decide their own faith but provide them with more education. The more educated Baloch will play a constructive role in the development of Balochistan in particular and Pakistan in general. There is a need to take prudent actions to resolve the Balochistan issue, otherwise it is going on the wrong side i.e. anarchy and disturbance. The external power will take the opportunity to use it against the

state of Pakistan. The Baloch nationalists are required to be taken in confidence to resolve this burning issue amicably.

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#### Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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