

RECOGNIZED IN "Y"
CATEGORY BY



Research Consortium Archive

P(ISSN) : 3007-0031

E(ISSN) : 3007-004X

<https://rc-archive.com/index.php/Journal/about>



EMERGING DYNAMICS AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF PAKISTAN: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

Dr. Zia Ur Rehman

Post-Doc Fellow/Faculty Member, University of Malaya, Malaysia

Dr. Waseem Ishaque

Associate Prof. ,NUML, Islamabad

Mr. Hamza Amir Khalil Sayed

Acting Director/Lecturer Area Study Centre China, NUML, Islamabad

Publisher : EDUCATION GENIUS SOLUTIONS

Review Type: Double Blind Peer Review

ABSTRACT

This study examines the internal and external security challenges and offers a futuristic national security strategy to combat such threats. Through content analysis of 170 published articles, the research identifies that Pakistan's national security is undermined by various internal factors, including political instability, corruption, and terrorism, which are compounded by weak governance and inadequate law enforcement. Moreover, Pakistan confronts external threats too, such as tensions with neighbouring countries and terrorism originating from border regions. After in depth analysis, the study recommends a Futuristic National Security Strategy (FNSS), which underscores the need to invest in advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing (QC), build stronger partnerships and alliances with friendly nations and international organizations, and invest in education and training programs to develop a highly skilled workforce, capable enough of managing emerging threats and technological advancements. The study contributes to the national security literature by proposing a proactive strategy that combines advanced technologies, partnerships, education and training programs to enhance Pakistan's national security preparedness. Furthermore, this study offers insightful recommendations for policymakers and security experts to enhance Pakistan's national security and safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, National Security, Pakistan, Terrorism, TTP

Introduction

National security is a multifaceted concept that involves various domains such as defence, intelligence, diplomacy, law enforcement, economic security, and critical infrastructure protection. It is the responsibility of a state to protect the welfare, survival, and sovereignty of its citizens and institutions against a wide range of internal and external threats. The challenges faced in today's interconnected world are complex, unpredictable, and non-traditional in nature. The strategic and operational insinuations of national security are complex, so effective policies and strategies are required to mitigate related risks and vulnerabilities. The interdisciplinary nature of national security relies upon empirical frameworks from the fields of political science, international relations, economics, law, and military studies (Hansel, 2018). At the strategic level, to achieve a coherent and effective response, the decision-makers must prioritize threats and allocate resources across different domains of national security, and also integrate numerous policy actors and instruments. National security strategies must take global trends and challenges into account, such as the rise of non-state actors, changing nature of conflict, proliferation of weapons, and the emergence of advanced technologies (Dube & Tsehaye, 2021). National security policies and strategies need to be continually updated, reviewed and adapted to

remain relevant and effective, in changing circumstances (Abdullah, 2019). And decision making related to national security should be grounded in a robust understanding of the underlying dynamics of specific challenges and potential unintended consequences of policy choices. In this way, the study of national security is critical for ensuring the stability, safety, and prosperity of nations in today's complex and turbulent international scenario. Effective national security strategies need to be continually developed as they are essential to protect citizens and institutions from a range of external and internal threats.

Background and Review

Since the establishment of Pakistan as an independent state in 1947, the country has been grappling with various national security concerns (BBC, 2021). The strategic location, nuclear program, and political instability have made it an attention for regional and global challenges. Over the time, Pakistan's national security priorities have evolved in response to changes in both international and domestic contexts (Al Jazeera, 2021). Initially, Pakistan's focus was on building its military capabilities to defend against its adverse malicious enemy India, who has created a territorial dispute over Kashmir by illegally occupying larger part of it (BBC, 2021). To safeguard the country and the nation, the military regime under General Ayub Khan emphasized a "forward defence" strategy, deploying troops closer to the border to prevent Indian malicious aggression. However, the unfortunate secession of East Pakistan in the 1970s brought about crisis that highlighted the need for a more comprehensive approach to national security (Dawn, 2021). In response, the military regime under General Zia-ul-Haq sought strengthen political and social institutions to create a sense of national identity and unity. Then during the Cold War, Pakistan was a key player in the US-led effort to contain Soviet expansion in South Asia (The Diplomat, 2021). Pakistan sacrificed and played vital role and with the support of US, Pakistan became able to modernize its armed forces and acquire advanced weaponry. However, due to this alliance, the everlasting enemy India tried to create more tensions, and viewed Pakistan as a proxy for US interests.

Recently, Pakistan faced new security challenges, including insurgencies and terrorist attacks by extremist groups (Al Jazeera, 2021). Then the spread of sectarian violence, the rise of Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan, and the emergence of militant separatist movements in Baluchistan with the help of external state actors, all contributed to a volatile security environment.

In 2023, Pakistan's national security is challenged by several critical factors (The Express Tribune, 2021), firstly, the territorial conflict with India over Kashmir remains a significant challenge, which has been threatening regional stability. Secondly, the fight against violent extremism and terrorism is an ongoing process, with groups such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the

Islamic State (IS), Al-Qaeda and other state agencies from neighbouring country, posing a huge threat to the country's national security. Thirdly, the relationship of Pakistan with the United States and international partners is imperative, particularly with recent withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, and Pakistan's role in facilitating a peaceful transition in Afghanistan. Additionally, Pakistan's economic stability is also a critical factor, with high inflation, a growing trade deficit, and an increase in external debt is putting the country's economy under huge strain. Furthermore, Pakistan's relationship with neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan and Iran can also play a vital role in facing national security issues.

Therefore, to address such challenges, Pakistan needs to adopt a comprehensive approach, including resolving the territorial conflict with India, strengthening counterterrorism capabilities, improving economic stability, and enhancing its relationships with neighbouring countries and international partners.

Analysis and Discussion

An in-depth analysis of the factors that impact the national security of Pakistan has been carried out by relying on two sources: secondary data related to national security for content analysis of the existing situation and secondly, the interviews. The researchers analysed a total of 170 sources, including reports, articles, and statements published over the past decade, to gather insights into the current security situation of Pakistan.

National security in Pakistan is a complex issue that faces various potential threats that can disrupt the country's stability and well-being. In recent years, the country has encountered significant challenges related to terrorism, regional conflict, and political instability. Terrorism, remained a critical threat to national security in Pakistan, as highlighted in a report by the Institute for Economics and Peace, which ranks Pakistan fourth in the Global Terrorism Index (IEP, 2021). Terrorist groups such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and others continue to establish themselves again by attacking on civilians and government targets (Khalil Sayed, 2025). Moreover, regional conflict poses another potential threat to national security in Pakistan, with the Afghanistan having significant implications on the country's security situation. After withdrawal of US from Afghanistan, situation of law and order and a stable govt to be settled, such factors in the region, lead to further destabilization (Reuters, 2021). Political instability is also a significant challenge to national security in Pakistan, with the political unrest. The recent protests by opposition parties against the government have exacerbated political tensions in the country (Al Jazeera, 2021) and current situation is also unexpected. In addition to these challenges, natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes can also pose a significant threat to national security in Pakistan, as evidenced by the country's experience with several major floods in recent years that have caused significant damage to

infrastructure and displaced millions of people (NDMA, 2021). To address these potential threats to national security in Pakistan, a comprehensive approach that takes into account the range of dimensions of national security and their interconnections is required. It is crucial for the government to collaborate with international partners to address these challenges and prioritize national security as a crucial aspect of their governance.

A range of security challenges exist that have the potential to harm Pakistan's stability. These challenges can be broadly classified into four categories, namely, sectarian extremism, Taliban insurgency, Baloch separatism, and political violence. The existence of these multiple challenges simultaneously presents significant difficulties for the Pakistani government in maintaining national security and addressing the underlying factors that fuel them.

Internal Challenges related to National Security

One of the significant internal security challenges in Pakistan is sectarian extremism. The country has witnessed many incidents of sectarian violence in recent years, especially against the Shia Muslim minority. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, the number of sectarian killings in the country has increased by 37% in 2020 (HRCP, 2021). To tackle this issue, the government has taken measures such as enhancing security and promoting interfaith harmony. Another major internal security challenge is terrorism and so-called Taliban insurgency. The Taliban has carried out numerous attacks on both civilian and military targets in Pakistan, particularly in the north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region. According to a United Nations report, the Taliban and other militant groups are responsible for a significant number of civilian casualties in Pakistan (UN, 2021). The Pakistani government has been launching military operations to target these groups, but the insurgency remains a significant challenge. Some state actors also try to destabilize Baluchistan by supporting movements and terrorist attacks, that is also an issue in Pakistan, with groups demanding greater autonomy for the Baluchistan province. Such movements have also been associated with terrorist activities, which further complicates the security situation.

Political violence is another problem in Pakistan, with frequent incidents of violence between political parties, particularly during elections. The country has also experienced military coups and ongoing tensions between civilian and military leaders. The recent protests by opposition parties against the government have further exacerbated political tensions in the country (Al Jazeera, 2021).

Therefore, there are lots of issues related to internal security, and there exist several key factors that contribute to human security. These factors are interconnected and require a comprehensive approach to address them effectively.

1. Economic security is a crucial aspect of human security, as individuals and communities need to be able to provide for their basic needs and maintain a decent standard of living. Poverty and unemployment are major challenges in this regard, particularly in developing countries like Pakistan (Nadeem et al., 2021). The lack of economic security can lead to instability, social unrest and thus making it an important consideration for policymakers (Ishaque et al., 2021).
2. Food security is another critical factor of human security, as access to safe and nutritious food is essential for human well-being. In Pakistan, food insecurity remains one of the significant concerns, with millions of people lacking access to adequate food (Ali et al., 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the food insecurity situation in the country, highlighting the need for sustainable and resilient food systems.
3. Health security is also a fundamental aspect of human security, as individuals and communities need to maintain good health and have access to quality healthcare services. In Pakistan, access to healthcare is limited, particularly in rural areas (Fatima & Afzal, 2021). Post covid 19, the issue has got more attention and this lack of access can lead to serious preventable illnesses and deaths, particularly among vulnerable populations.
4. Environmental security is another issue related to human security, but it is becoming increasingly significant as climate change and natural disasters pose huge threats to people's lives and livelihoods. Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, which can have devastating effects on communities (Ali et al., 2021). Addressing environmental security issues requires a multi-disciplinary approach that takes into account climate change, natural resource management, and disaster risk reduction.
5. Personal security is another important component of human security, as it is very important that individuals should feel safe and secure in their daily lives within the country. Unfortunately, Pakistan has experienced high levels of violence and crime, particularly against children and women (Khan & Mirza, 2021). The lack of personal security can lead to stress, fear and anxiety, affecting people's mental health and psychological state of being.
6. Social security is also an essential aspect of human security. Communities need to be able to live in peace and harmony, with access to basic services and protection from violence and discrimination. Political instability and conflict can undermine community security, as seen in Pakistan's history of military coups and political violence.
7. Political security is also critical for human security, as stable and effective governance is necessary for addressing internal security challenges (Ishaque et al., 2022). This must be prioritized in relation to national security

External Challenges related to National Security

One of the biggest external challenges to a nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity comes from foreign governments with hostile intentions. These threats can take many forms, including direct aggression and war, as well as more covert methods such as espionage and election interference (Lee, 2019). Espionage can be considered as a significant threat to national security, where foreign entities acquire trade secrets or sensitive information, jeopardizing a nation's security interests (Kim, 2020). Prior studies show that Pakistan has faced numerous instances of espionage, with foreign intelligence agencies infiltrating its intelligence and institutions (Hameed, 2019).

Another form of external threat to national security is election interference, which has become increasingly common in recent years. It involves foreign governments attempting to influence the democratic process of another nation, using methods such as hacking and disinformation campaigns (Latham & Bowers, 2019). The use of social media has become very influential tool to promote self-interest. Prior studies show that in Pakistan, there is evidence of foreign actors interfering in elections, using fake news and social media manipulation (Ali, 2019).

Supreme Responsibility

When it comes to ensuring national security, two entities are to be responsible for its supreme responsibility: the National Security Council (NSC) and the general public. The NSC is constituted of top national security advisors and cabinet officials who advise the Government and people in affairs on critical foreign policy and national security issues. They are responsible for coordinating and developing strategies to manage and respond to national security challenges.

According to Pakistan's Constitution, the Prime Minister is the head of the government and the chief executive of the country (Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973). However, the NSC serves as the principal forum for national security and foreign policy decision-making, and its recommendations are taken seriously by the government (Haider, 2015). The NSC is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises the Chief of Army Staff, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and other senior officials involved in national security matters (Government of Pakistan, 2020). Its responsibilities include providing strategic guidance to the government on matters of national security and foreign policy, as well as facilitating inter-agency coordination and collaboration (Government of Pakistan, 2020). While the Prime Minister has ultimate responsibility for national security and foreign policy matters, the NSC's role in providing expert advice and coordinating policies across government agencies is critical in ensuring a comprehensive and unified approach to national security challenges (Haider, 2015). The NSC is a vital institution in Pakistan that plays a critical role in providing strategic guidance to

the government on matters of national security and foreign policy. While the Prime Minister holds supreme responsibility for these matters, the NSC's expertise and coordination are essential in ensuring Pakistan's security and prosperity (Haider, 2015).

However, national security is not the sole responsibility of the NSC, every citizen of a country shares a responsibility in ensuring national security. It is the responsibility of the public to report any suspicious activities or behaviours that may threaten national security. By doing so, they contribute to maintaining national security by helping to prevent potential security breaches. While the NSC is responsible for coordinating national security efforts and developing strategies to address security challenges, it is the collective responsibility of the citizens to remain vigilant and report any potential threats to national security. Only with the combined efforts of both the NSC and the general public can a country ensure national security.

That being said, public participation and support can play a significant role in ensuring national security. For example, citizens can report suspicious activities or packages to the authorities, participate in emergency drills, and be vigilant in their surroundings. In addition, promoting a culture of peace and tolerance can also contribute to national security by reducing the risk of internal conflicts and extremism.

In conclusion, while the ultimate responsibility for national security rests with the government and military, public participation and support can also play an important role in maintaining a secure and peaceful society.

There are several ways in which serious damage can occur that can affect Pakistan's national security. Firstly, any disruption to Pakistan's foreign relations, which are crucial to its national security, can have severe consequences. For example, if classified diplomatic cables were leaked to the media, it could damage Pakistan's reputation and affect its relations with neighbouring countries and allies. Secondly, any significant impairment to programs or policies directly related to national security can also have severe consequences. Such information is often classified to protect sensitive information and if it were to be revealed, it could seriously jeopardize the country's security. Lastly, any revelation of significant military planning or intelligence operations can compromise national security. This can lead to serious consequences, exposing security vulnerabilities, endangering military personnel, and even emboldening terrorist groups to launch attacks.

Proposed Futuristic National Security Policy

As National Security is a critical aspect of any country's governance and is essential for overall stability and well-being, therefore the National Security Strategy (NSS) should aim to ensure that the nation's enduring and fundamental needs are properly protected, including safeguarding the lives and safety of citizens, maintaining

sovereignty, and promoting prosperity and development. The protection of the lives and safety of citizens is of paramount importance, as any threat to their well-being can lead to instability and insecurity. For example, the terrorist attacks that resulted in the loss of many innocent lives in Abbottabad and similar other had a devastating impact on the nation's sense of security (Liaquat & Abbasi, 2020). On the other hand, maintaining the sovereignty of the country is also crucial, as it ensures that the nation remains free from external interference and can exercise its will in the international arena. Particularly, it is important for countries that face security threats from their neighbours, for example, Pakistan faces security challenges from its eastern and western borders, and maintaining its sovereignty is essential to ensuring its security (Khan & Ahmad, 2018). Then, promoting prosperity of the nation is also critically integral to the national security, as it enables the state to provide for the needs of its citizens and pursue its objectives effectively. A strong economy is essential to national security, as it provides the resources necessary to invest in national defence and other critical areas (Mian & Khan, 2017). Hence, we can say that national security is central to the overall stability and well-being of a country, and maintenance of sovereignty, protection of citizens, and promotion of prosperity are all of critical importance related to national security, and a Comprehensive National Security Strategy (CNSS) is necessary to survive and progress with integrity.

Therefore, Pakistan needs to develop a Comprehensive National Security Strategy (CNSS) aiming at safeguarding the country's territorial integrity, protecting its citizens, and promoting global peace and stability.

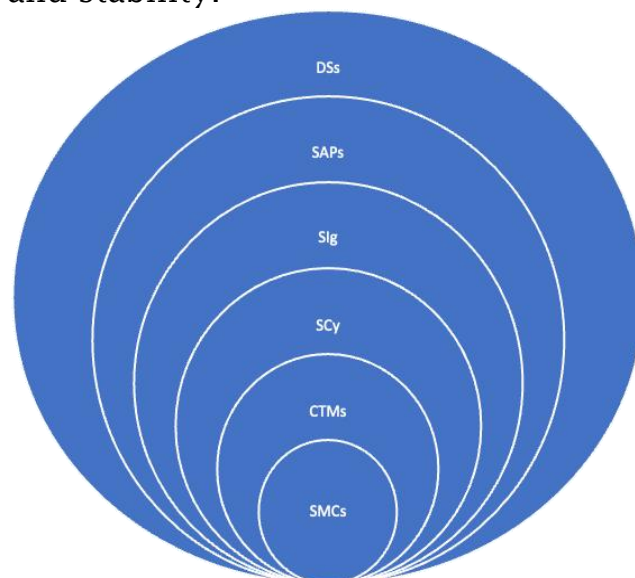


Figure-1: Conceptual Framework

The following are some of the critical strategies that Pakistan need to adopt or revise or begin on priority basis:

1. *Strengthening Military Capabilities (SMCs)*: Pakistan has

world's one of the best militaries and has made significant role in defence. However, it needs much more improvement, including modernizing its nuclear arsenal, investing in advanced weapon systems, and improving military readiness. It needs to advance and enhance and even transform the entire military structure according to the needs to future.

2. *Counter-Terrorism Measures (CTMs)*: Pakistan has been the victim of several terrorist attacks and has developed effective and strategic counter-terrorism measures. However, it needs to further improve by strengthening intelligence, gathering and sharing more information automatically, improving integrated coordination among agencies, and developing and deploying specialized forces to combat terrorism with advanced technologies.

3. *Strengthening Cybersecurity (SCy)*: Pakistan has done some efforts in this field; however, cybersecurity has become a crucial component of national security, and Pakistan needs to take several measures to strengthen cybersecurity, including establishment of effective and functional cybersecurity centres, effective collaborating with international organizations, and the developing self-sufficient advanced, made in Pakistan cybersecurity tools.

4. *Strengthening Intelligence Gathering (SIg)*: Intelligence gathering plays a crucial role in national security of any country, and Pakistan has tried to exert good efforts in it, however more investments in strengthening intelligence agencies is the need of the hour. The government tried to improve coordination among various intelligence agencies, however, there is a need to develop advanced technology to improve intelligence gathering with full control.

5. *Strengthening Alliances and Partnerships (SAPs)*: Pakistan has tried to develop strong partnerships with various countries to enhance its national security, however, partnerships need to include collaborations in areas such as intelligence, defence, data sharing, and even counter-terrorism. Pakistan needs play more active and strategic role in various international organizations such as the United Nations in promoting global peace and security.

6. *Diplomacy Strategies (DSs)*: No doubt, diplomacy is best strategy that plays a critical role in promoting global peace and stability, and the Pakistan has been engaged in diplomatic efforts. However, it needs to include participation in various international negotiations, such as trade agreements, arms control talks, promotion of global cooperation and stability and alike. This enhances diplomacy strategy and chances of increased influence in global scenario, which in turn strengthens national security.

Having said so, it is imperative that Pakistan needs to embed modern technological advancement like of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing (QC), in every field, and enhance collaboration and cooperation to build stronger partnerships and alliance, regionally as well as globally.

Conclusion

In conclusion, national security is an important aspect of any country's existence, and Pakistan is no different. Based on the findings of the analysis, the presented strategic framework aims at enhancing Pakistan's national security readiness. The framework includes a range of recommendations, such as the adoption of advanced technologies, strengthening strategic partnerships and alliances, and investing in education and training programs to develop a highly skilled workforce that can efficiently manage emerging security threats.

The proposed framework seeks to promote national security and safeguard Pakistan's territorial integrity by proactively addressing current and future security challenges. Policymakers, security experts, and military officials can leverage the practical insights and recommendations presented in the proposed strategic framework to enhance national security preparedness and ensure Pakistan's sovereignty. It is crucial to protect the country's sovereignty, ensure the safety and security of its citizens, and maintain stability and peace within the country. Internal threats such as terrorism, extremism, and political instability can significantly undermine national security. Pakistan has taken several measures to address these challenges, including military operations, counter-terrorism strategies, and socio-economic reforms. However, more needs to be done to address the root causes of these issues and promote social and political inclusivity. External threats, including military aggression, espionage, and election interference, also pose a significant challenge to Pakistan's national security. Pakistan needs to enhance its diplomatic and strategic capabilities, build strong alliances with friendly nations, and strengthen its military and intelligence capabilities to effectively tackle external threats. To achieve this, Pakistan needs to focus on a comprehensive approach to national security that includes socio-economic development, political stability, and military strength. This approach should also include enhancing intelligence capabilities, improving border security, strengthening the rule of law, and promoting international cooperation. In addition, it is essential for Pakistan to invest in education and training programs to raise awareness about national security threats and build a strong sense of patriotism and national identity among its citizens. Thus, Pakistan's national security requires a collective effort from all stakeholders, including the government, citizens, and international community. By adopting a comprehensive approach and implementing effective strategies, Pakistan can effectively address internal and external threats and ensure a secure and prosperous future for its citizens.

References

Abdullah, M. A. (2019). National Security Policy and Strategy for Effective National Security Management in Malaysia. *Journal of International Studies*, 15(1), 1-18.

- Al Jazeera. (2021, March 30). Protests rock Pakistan as opposition demands PM resign. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/30/protests-rock-pakistan-as-opposition-demands-pm-resign>
- Ali, S. S. (2019). Foreign interference in Pakistan's general elections 2018. *Journal of Politeia*, 9(1), 65-80.
- BBC. (2021, March 11). Pakistan: The Baluchistan Insurgency. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-45411739>
- Begum, S., Ashraf, I., & Muzaffar, M. (2019). Pakistan-China Iron Brother: A New Horizon of Interstate Relations. *Orient Research Journal of Social Sciences*, 4, 269-279.
- Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. (1973). Retrieved from <https://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/constitution/>
- Dube, T., & Tsehaye, E. (2021). International Security and Its Implications for National Security. *Journal of International Studies*, 17(1), 1-15.
- Freedom House. (2021). Pakistan. <https://freedomhouse.org/country/pakistan/freedom-world/2021>
- Government of Pakistan. (2017). Official Secrets Act, 1923. Retrieved from http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1523999326_159.pdf
- Government of Pakistan. (2020). National Security Council. Retrieved from <http://nsc.gov.pk/index.php/about-nsc>
- Gul, S., Ishaque, W., & Asghar, M. F. (2021). Impact of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on National Development and Integration in Pakistan
- Haider, Z. (2015). The National Security Council: a vital institution. *The Express Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/913951/the-national-security-council-a-vital-institution/>
- Khalil Sayed, H. A. (2025). Analysing the Resurgence of Terrorism in Pakistan: Causes and Remedies. *Social Science Review Archives*, 3(1), 300-312. <https://doi.org/10.70670/sra.v3i1.312>
- Hameed, S. (2019). Espionage in Pakistan: A Review. *Journal of Political Studies*, 26(2), 209-223.
- Hansel, D. (2018). National Security in the Age of Globalization. *International Studies Review*, 20(2), 303-324.
- Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. (2021). State of Human Rights in 2020. <http://hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HRCP-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>
- Human Rights Watch. (2021). Pakistan: Investigate 'Disappearances,' Killings in Baluchistan. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/02/17/pakistan-investigate-disappearances-killings-balochistan>
- Human Rights Watch. (2021). Pakistan. <https://www.hrw.org/asia/pakistan>
- Ishaque, W., Rehman, M. Z., & Fatima, N. (2019). Impact of

- Globalization on National Security. *Global Social Sciences Review*, 4(1), 23-33.
- Ishaque, W., Mukhtar, M., & Ali, R. (2021). Infusing National Integration in the Fractured Society of Pakistan. *Global Political Review*, VI, 21-32.
- Ishaque, W., Mukhtar, M., & Tanvir, R. (2022). Political Polarization and Challenges of National Integration in Pakistan. *Annals of Social Sciences and Perspective*, 3(1), 153-166.
- Khan, M. A. (2018). Pakistan's National Security Policy: A Critical Appraisal. In M. A. Khan & I. Ahmad (Eds.), *Pakistan's National Security Dilemma: The Strategic Use of Militants* (pp. 73-90). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Khan, M. A., & Ahmad, I. (2018). *Pakistan's National Security Dilemma: The Strategic Use of Militants*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kim, T. (2020). The Challenge of Cyber Espionage to National Security. *East Asia: An International Quarterly*, 37(2), 125-143.
- Latham, A., & Bowers, R. (2019). Foreign Interference in Democratic Processes: The New Normal? *Journal of Democracy*, 30(3), 43-57.
- Lee, S. (2019). *National Security Threats: An Overview*. Congressional Research Service.
- Liaquat, S., & Abbasi, N. A. (2020). Perception of the Public on National Security: Evidence from Pakistan. *Journal of Political Studies*, 27(1), 97-116.
- Mian, A. M., & Khan, A. (2017). The Correlation between National Security and Economic Development: A Case Study of Pakistan. *Journal of Political Studies*, 24(2), 119-132.
- The White House. (2017). *National Security Strategy of the United States of America*. Retrieved from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905.pdf>
- UNDP. (2019). *Pakistan's Environment: Critical Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities*. https://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/library/environment_and_energy/Pakistan-Environment-Critical-Issues-Challenges-and-Opportunities.html
- UNICEF. (2020). *Pakistan*. <https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/>
- United Nations. (2021). *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict - Afghanistan-Pakistan region: Mid-year report 2021*. https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/unama_poc_mid-year_report_2021.pdf
- WHO. (2021). *Pakistan: WHO statistical profile*. https://www.who.int/gho/countries/pak/country_profiles/en/
- World Bank. (2021). *Pakistan*. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/pakistan/overview>