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Religious Extremism Is on the Rise 24
Marco Mezzera
Religious extremism is growing in Pakistan, threatening that nation’s society and government. Although always part of Pakistan’s identity, this extremism strengthened after the US war on terror linked the ruling government with western values. Pakistan is in dire need of enlightened national leadership that can unify the country.

Islamic Extremism Has Infiltrated Pakistan’s Military 30
Imtiaz Gul
Pakistanis suspected that some government bureaucrats and judges are sympathetic to Islamic extremists, but the arrest in 2011 of Ali Khan, a senior officer in the Pakistani army, showed that radicals have infiltrated Pakistan’s military.

Religious Extremism and Other Threats Are Pushing Pakistan into Instability 35
Anthony H. Cordesman and Varun Vira
Pakistan today is facing an array of serious threats—religious extremism and terrorism as well as economic and development problems and a war in neighboring Afghanistan. Religious extremist groups, which include al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives, are threatening Pakistan’s secular government and stability, yet the nation’s leaders are focused on India and external threats and failing to address these internal problems.
No: Religious Extremism Is Not Increasing in Pakistan

Public Support for Religious Extremists in Pakistan Is Rapidly Declining 44
Richard Wike and Kathleen Holzwart

Although Pakistan continues to be the site of violent attacks by religious extremists, public support for extremism in Pakistan has decreased dramatically in recent years. As recently as 2004, for example, more than 40 percent of Muslim Pakistanis thought terrorist acts were justified in defense of Islam, but public opinion surveys in 2008 found only 5 percent agreed with this view.

Although Weak, Some Secular Groups in Pakistan Are Fighting Religious Extremism 49
Hassan Javid

The 2011 killing of Salam Taseer, governor of Punjab, is a recent example of Islamic militancy in Pakistan, and this incident clearly demonstrated that religious extremism is strong in the country. However, there are some secular, progressive, and intellectual groups in Pakistan that are protesting this trend.

The Khudi Youth Movement Is Fighting Extremism in Pakistan 53
Imran Khan, interviewed by Ayushman Jamwal

Extremist violence is rampant in Pakistan, and tens of thousands of Pakistanis have been killed since 2001. However, Khudi—a youth group dedicated to teaching ideals of pluralism and democracy—is leading a growing intellectual movement that hopes to convince Pakistan’s military and government to abandon support for militants.

Chapter 2: Is Pakistan’s Nuclear Arsenal Secure?

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Yes: Pakistan’s Nuclear Arsenal Is Secure

Pakistan Has a Reliable Nuclear Security System 65

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Pakistan reiterates its commitment to nuclear safety in a Nuclear Security Summit and asks for cooperation on nuclear security. In a statement Pakistan informs the international community that it has a rigorous regulatory regime, and that the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority regulates the safety and security of nuclear facilities.

**Pakistan’s Energy Woes**

*Akhtar Ali*

It is not nuclear weapons but the energy crisis that is the real threat to stability in Pakistan. The country is facing potential economic collapse as a result of its energy policies and lack of investment in a reliable energy system. To solve this crisis, Pakistan needs assistance from the United States to develop new and existing sources of energy in the country.

**No: Pakistan’s Nuclear Arsenal Is Not Secure**

**Pakistan’s Nuclear Arsenal Faces a Serious Threat from Extremists**

*Matthew Bunn, Eben Harrell, and Martin B. Malin*

Some US nuclear experts think that Pakistan is one of highest risk nuclear sites due to the presence of al Qaeda, Taliban, and other terrorist and militant groups that may seek to acquire nuclear weapons. Although Pakistan has taken security steps, these defenses could be overwhelmed, especially if Pakistan’s weak national government collapses.

**Much of the World Is Worried About the Security of Pakistan’s Nuclear Weapons**

*Jeffrey Goldberg and Marc Ambinder*

Many US and western nuclear experts wonder if Pakistan’s nuclear materials are secure because Pakistan is politically unstable, is home to numerous terrorist organizations, and has been the main global supplier of nuclear technology to Iran and North Korea. Although Pakistani officials claim that their nuclear stocks are safe, there is evidence of unsafe practices, and the country’s contentious relationship with the United States makes the situation even more dangerous.
Continued Instability in Pakistan Could Threaten Its Nuclear Safeguards

Paul K. Kerr and Mary Beth Nikitin

Pakistan has taken a number of steps to provide greater security for its nuclear arsenal in recent years, but continuing instability in the country could undermine these reforms. This instability could take the form of extremists taking over the government or a loss of security caused by an insider sympathizing with extremists. Another war between India and Pakistan could also risk nuclear security.

Chapter 3: Does the Pakistan-India Conflict Pose a Global Security Threat?

Chapter Preface

Yes: The Pakistan-India Conflict Poses a Global Security Threat

Pakistan Will Be a Danger to the World Until a Political Settlement Is Reached with India

The Economist

Conflict between Pakistan and India has caused more than 100,000 deaths over the years, a volatile situation since both countries have nuclear weapons. This conflict has also caused Pakistan to give too much power to the army, support the Taliban in Afghanistan, and encourage anti-India terrorists. Unless the two nations can solve their differences, Pakistan will continue to pose a danger to the world.

Pakistan Cannot Fight Terrorism Until It Settles the Pakistan-India Conflict

Jonathan Foreman

Pakistan is not able to fight terrorism until the crisis in India-controlled Kashmir is solved. Kashmir is a major obstacle in settling the Pakistan-India conflict. Thousands of citizens have been killed over the Kashmir crisis, yet it is still largely ignored in the West. Resolving this conflict is key to fighting terrorism.
No: The Pakistan-India Conflict Does Not Pose a Global Security Threat

Leaders of Pakistan and India Are Pursuing Peace Talks

Frank Jack Daniel

In a meeting in India on April 8, 2012, Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari and Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh discussed various issues that divide their two nations, including Kashmir, terrorism, and trade. The meeting is a sign that relations have thawed in recent months, and both sides hope that peaceful solutions to problems can be achieved.

Trade Could Help End the Pakistan-India Conflict

Nirmala George

Pakistan and India are pursuing trade as a means of decreasing their decades-long conflict. The two nations are negotiating various trade proposals, including most-favored-nation trade status for India, expansion of cross-border visas, and increased numbers of trade border crossings.

Who Are the Real Stakeholders of Indo-Pak Peace?

Ayesha Siddiqa

Pakistan’s political leaders have a direct stake in peace with India, and although there is some political instability in the country, the survival of the present government and a nonviolent transition to a new government in 2013 should create better conditions for peace efforts. India should reach out to Pakistan’s liberal politicians and help create an alternative to Islamic extremism.

Chapter 4: What Steps Should Be Taken to Stabilize Pakistan?

Chapter Preface

The United States Should Push for Reform of Pakistan’s Intelligence Services

Daniel Markey
The US killing of Osama bin Laden in Pakistan caused a crisis in US-Pakistan relations. The United States should now work indirectly, and with the help of China and Saudi Arabia, to encourage Pakistan to reform its intelligence service so that it can more effectively work to remove all of the many different terrorist and militant groups now operating within its borders.

The United States Must Stop Pakistan from Increasing Its Nuclear Arsenal

Daryl G. Kimball
The US relationship with Pakistan has lately been focused on al-Qaeda and the Taliban, but the United States also needs to take action to block Pakistan’s nuclear build-up. Specifically, the United States along with the five original nuclear nations should pursue an agreement with all nuclear states to stop producing material for nuclear weapons and open their nuclear arsenals to international inspections.

The United States Must Accept Pakistan as It Is and Provide Economic Support

Jehangir Karamat
The killing of Osama bin Laden and other incidents in 2011 have harmed the US-Pakistan relationship—a relationship that was already difficult. The United States should transition out of Afghanistan, allow Pakistan to resolve its internal problems alone, and provide economic and technological aid to help Pakistan become a stable country.

Pakistan Must Develop Its Own Counter-Extremism Strategy

Mehlaqa Samdani
Although militants and terrorists continue to take Pakistani lives, Pakistan’s government has failed to develop an effective counter-extremism strategy, instead allowing the military to deal with these issues with military tactics. Pakistanis should urge their civilian leaders to create a counter-extremism strategy that will negotiate with the Taliban, improve the criminal justice system, and address socio-economic factors.
Providing Long-Term Development Aid to Pakistan Is in the Interest of the United States

Nancy Birdsall, Wren Elhai, and Molly Kinder

In order to prevent Pakistan, a nuclear state, from failing, the United States should commit to a long-term effort to promote economic development, political stability, and democracy. Among other efforts, the United States should open US markets to Pakistan, encourage private investment there, provide carefully targeted foreign aid, and support Pakistan's reformers.

Organizations to Contact

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