



Civil Military Relations in Pakistan: A Brief Survey (A)

Civil Military Relations

Civil military relations for a country describes the relationship between a society as whole and established military organization(s) to protect it (society). More narrowly it describes the relationship between the civil authority of a given society and its military authority. The term “civil–military relations” refers to the role of the armed forces in a society. It implies that the relations between the military and the civilian population are like labor-management relations, legislative-executive relations civil-military relations includes studies of how a military employs civilian contractor, how military bases interact with their neighbors, and how a nation's military affects its politics

Military organizations are generally established to protect the societies from all kind of threats like external, internal and existential threats. In other words, the civil military relationship outlines the scopes of civil authority, military authority and relationship between these two authorities. Nature of civil military relations can be used to measure the type of democracy in a country i.e. Good democracy usually have balanced civil military relations. Also, civil military relations refer to the role of armed various in various components of society like e.g. how military employ civilian contractors, how military bases are established how they interact with neighbors or how military effects the politics of a country. Balanced civil military relations can be managed by considering all the required factors for balanced civil-military relations. The most basic precondition of a true democratic setup is a healthy civil-military relationship. In all democratic countries, an elected civilian government enjoys full control over the military. However, in Pakistan, control over governance has oscillated between the two; a decade of civilian supremacy followed by a decade of military rule. The reasons for this periodic shuffling are incompetent political leadership, weak political parties and institutions, rising power of civil-military bureaucracy, serious security threats to the country and frequent use of military in aid of civil power.

Civil Military Relations in Pakistan

From history, it can be analyzed that civil military relations of Pakistan mostly remain imbalanced due to various reasons, the control of Pakistan's governance remained shuffling between civilian supremacy and military rule. Supposedly there are more than one reasons for these imbalanced civil military relations, including the incompetent political leadership, weak political parties. Other factors to imbalanced civil military relations may include rising power of military bureaucracy, frequent use of military in aid of civil power e.g. for solving internal political disputes etc. Sometimes it is perceived that the military desired to rule the Pakistan but this perception is wrong as supposedly Pakistan has been suffering from incompetent political leadership and weak political parties that are apparent causes of most of the military interventions in governance.

Civil military relations can be affected by the existential, internal, external and even global factors. Pakistan has always remained under the existential and various other external threats that required a strong and efficient military to mitigate these threats. e.g. The eastern and western border always remained vulnerable to existential threats. Internal factors may include the incompetent leadership and weak political parties, involvement of military in internal especially the political disputes. These all factors including the external and internal factors require the active participation of military in country that can lead to imbalance in civil military relations.

Civil-military relations of Pakistan remained imbalanced, country has faced four military coups since its inception, military has ruled Pakistan for 33 years out of 71 years, due to effects and perception drawn from military rule civil military relation balanced has been badly effected it has been believed that the military is the most influential institutional player, even it is widely believed that military rules from behind the scenes in the civil governments. This trend of military supremacy can be observed in the other strong democracies on the globe as well. This is a one side of coin that military is the most influential player the other side of coin can be the competent leaders and strong political parties can work together with military in their respective domains to maintain healthy and balanced civil military relations.

Geo-strategically Pakistan is very important nuclear-armed country that need a strong military for its existential and other external threats, Pakistan has allegedly considered as heaven for

terrorists, especially considering that war in neighboring Afghanistan, Pakistan needs a strong military for the counter-terrorism activities. Pakistan is also very central to America's Afghanistan strategy that is supposedly also causing the civil-military imbalances due to military to military direct cooperation instead of involving the civil government. Despite some analysts' regard Pakistan as soon to be failed state due to prevailing indicators but Pakistan is on the way strengthening democracy and balanced civil military relations

Factors to be Analyzed

- External Threats
- Internal Threats
- Military Composition
- Condition of the State
- Military Institutionalization

1. External Threats

- **Pakistan-India Relations**

The major external threat to Pakistan since its inception is its neighbor India, India has been remained threat due to various reasons one of the basic reasons is Hindu Muslim antagonism. India still consider Pakistan its part and expecting it be its part again in future because India consider Pakistan will not be able to survive and economically and strategically it is failed state. Pakistan should make his military strong in order to avert this threat or in order to counter that threat, so Pakistan has got civil military institutions and civilian society is not that strong in Pakistan. Military society is also well educated, and they are also well equipped, but our civilian people and institutions are weak. Most civilian societies are also dislike by the military societies. There were four wars were fought between India and Pakistan in the year of 1947, 1965, 1971 and 1999. The war of 1947 and 1965 was due to Kashmir, war of 1971 was due to East Pakistan and the war of 1999 was due to Kargil and it was not a full fledged war. Another major issue is Kashmir issue from 1947-1999 Pakistan has faced four wars with India due to Kashmir issue, Kashmir issues has been considered is major cause of conflicts between India and Pakistan. The other Pakistan-India issues may include division of water resources, trade and its routes etc. For above mentioned major threats there is need of strong military to mitigate

threats, because these threats can lead to the existential roots of country the need of strong military in such circumstances can be a cause of imbalanced civil military relations.

- **Terrorism**

Like other countries around the globe Pakistan has been facing terrorism challenges especially after the soviet invasion of Afghanistan, after soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan the ‘Mujahidin’ that were fighting during soviet invasion moved to Kashmir and started fighting against India, Unfortunately India blames Pakistan for these Mujahidin. These displaced Mujahidins of soviet war has relationships with neighboring countries like Afghanistan, during last few decades these Mujahdin remained the main cause of terrorism in countries of this region and mostly the countries of region blame each other for anonymous terrorism. In past years major cities of Pakistan even sometimes Capital remained vulnerable to terrorism. To counter that terrorism there is need of extra strong and influential military, that can be the cause of imbalanced military relations.

Internal Threats

- **Leadership Crisis**

The first year of Independence was marked by heavy dependence on the charismatic personality of Jinnah; he was Governor-General and President of the Constituent Assembly. He had charismatic appeal, stature and unrivalled prestige that commanded and compelled unquestioned acceptance of his leadership all over Pakistan. However, he died on 11 September 1948, leaving behind an enduring political vacuum. After the untimely demise of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Pakistan has been lacking the competent civilian leadership. If country lacks the civilian leadership ultimately there is need of replacement of that leadership for the existence of country, military leadership can be considered as the best replacement in such circumstances. Jinnah’s lieutenant and Pakistan’s first Prime Minister, guided the country with courage and confidence during a difficult period but lacked the authority of the Jinnah. He endeavored to strengthen the parliamentary system, but his tenure was cut short by an assassin’s bullet in October 1951. Parliamentary democracy began to erode after the death of prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan from that time bureaucratic intervention started at various levels of state at provincial level bureaucratic intervention resulted into to governor’s rule, many critics and analysts consider that early intervention of bureaucracy as a root cause of

imbalanced civil-military relations in Pakistan. In 71 years of Pakistan's history about four times supposedly incompetent civil leadership was replaced by military that may cause the ongoing imbalance in civil military relations. With Liaquat's death, the facade of "parliamentary democracy" began to erode. The bureaucratic elites did not take long to convert the office of Governor-General into an instrument of bureaucratic intervention. In the provinces, on several occasions, bureaucratic intervention occurred in the garb of the Governor's rule. The Chief Ministers were dismissed, even though their parties had a majority in the provincial assemblies.

- **Provincialism**

The geographic separation of East-West Pakistan caused the major administrative, social, economic and financial problems, East and west Pakistan were facing the major complexes that led to the separation. In such circumstance military played to major role that may be the reason to imbalanced civil-military relations. East Pakistan was economically worse off than West Pakistan. The Pakistan Muslim League policies were purportedly directed toward overall economic development, but focused on West-Pakistan, which contributed to Bengali deprivation and alienation.

- **Constitutional Making Dilemma 1947-56**

The constitution making dilemma of 1947-56 has empowered the military elites instead of civil supremacy, Punjabi-Bengali controversy the differences Punjabi dominated West Pakistan elite and East-Pakistan elite caused the delay of about nine years in constitution making of Pakistan. Due to repercussions of aforementioned factors and difference of opinions between both groups, military was utilized to neutralize the situation that military intervention empowered the military and also the popularity of military has been enhanced in public and civil circles, that factor was not considered by the civil leadership of that time. Although the situation was not successfully neutralized and East-Pakistan was separated from west Pakistan that supposedly empowered the military that can be a cause of imbalance in civil-military relations.