

## **SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM**

**Ruchi Khanna**

*Research Scholar*

*Department of Political Science*

*Monad University Hapur*

*Email: ruchikalra2005@gmail.com*

**Prof. Lata Sharma**

*D.Lit*

*Principal*

*RBS College, Mathura*

*Email: urviangrish@gmail.com*

**Abstract**

*The report analyzes a large number of incidents of terrorism in South Asia, drawing attention to Pakistan and India, but also including Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The aliveness of international terrorist groups and their promoters in South Asia has been certified as a warning to both regional firmness and the consciousness of Central America and South Asia, which has been afflicted by terrorism for so many years. Due to terrorism, South Asia has suffered the most economically and politically due to terrorism and it has completely ended the relations between many countries. Almost all the countries of South Asia are suffering from this warning and hence many agreements and grounds have been made to eliminate it. Terrorism is a problem for everyone. It is a good cooperation among all the collaboration is essential in this regard. SAARC as a regional institution of South Asia has a lot of accountability in this problem.*

Reference to this paper  
should be made as follows:

**Received: 21.06.2023**

**Approved: 25.06.2023**

**Ruchi Khanna,  
Prof. Lata Sharma,**

*SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM*

*RJPSSs 2023, Vol. XLIX,*

*No. 1, pp.160-165*

*Article No.20*

Similarity Check: 3%

**Online available at:**

*<https://anubooks.com/journal/research-journal-of-philosophy-amp-social-sciences>*

**DOI:** *<https://doi.org/10.31995/rjps.s.2023v49i01.20>*

### **Terrorism in South Asia**

Terrorism is slowly spreading its tentacles everywhere all over the world. It is increasing. Because of this human life is slowly being destroyed. Hardly a day goes by when we don't hear about any terrorist incident.1)

Terrorism is a completely political term. Terrorism has created a certain problem for the society. There is great difficulty in overcoming terrorism. We cannot determine its nature and scope. For example, according to the Government of India, the LTTE was not a terrorist organization until 1988, while the Sri Lankan government considered the LTTE to be a terrorist organization. Terrorism has a different meaning for every country. Terrorism is recognized by its acts, not by its nature.2).

Terrorists pursue their policies with the belief that they have no direct connection with the death and suffering of innocent persons to whom terrorists are dedicated.

There is no correlation. Terrorists are dedicated to terror. Whatever terrorists do to achieve their political objectives, the success they get is completely justified.”3) South Asia has seen many forms of terrorism over the past several decades. There are many religious and communal groups who are adopting various violent and terrorist methods to press their demands and try to disturb the civil society. Jihadi and Islamic forces have become fully active in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal for some time now. Pet jihadists here believe in pet hit-and-run tactics. This was the policy they followed. And this is because their activities have the full support of both the political as well as the military leadership of Pakistan. Pakistan has always been a driving force of terrorism. In the name of the right to self-determination, Pakistan has been supporting all the unruly elements as well as encouraging and helping them.

Since the 1980s, Pakistan has become a base and transit point for many Islamic groups. South Asia has seen many forms of terrorism over the past several decades. There are many religious and communal groups who are adopting various violent and terrorist methods to press their demands and try to disturb the civil society. Jihadi and Islamic forces have become fully active in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal for some time now. They have also established close ties with insurgent movements in the northeastern parts of India to increase their power and spread terror. In India, many types of terrorist activities have been promoted by Muslim and Hindu fundamentalists to promote terror. Revolutionary movements are going on in Nepal and Sri Lanka under the leadership of Maoists and LTTE. Terrorism in South Asia is strong because of strong state support. It seems that all the South Asian states are adopting terrorism as a policy to persuade others and to put pressure on each other. It is officially encouraged by the states.

The terrorism spread by Pakistan in Kashmir is well known for the last two decades. Bangladesh has also left no stone unturned in spreading terror. Bangladesh has instigated many groups from North-East India against the Indian government and has also given them shelter. So that they can fulfill their demands. Bangladesh has played the role of medium many times in the activities done by ISI against India. In return, India provided money and ammunition to LTTE cadres and encouraged and supported Tamil terrorists in Sri Lanka. But all this happened before the treaty between India and Sri Lanka. Even states like Bhutan and Nepal are not spared from terrorism. Nepal's government is facing a Maoist insurgency. Bhutan has also always engaged in nexus between extremists and Nepalese refugees.

The tension between Bhutan and Nepal is huge because of Nepal's support to Nepalese in Bhutan. There are many other features of terrorism in South Asia. Here in the name of Jihad, movements have been run by many groups and organizations. It is in the name of religion. This is terrorism based on religion. Jihadis have made Pakistan the center of their activities for a long time and still, Pakistan is a stronghold of terrorism. Pet jihadists here believe in pet hit-and-run tactics. This was the policy they followed. And this is because their activities have the full support of both the political as well as the military leadership of Pakistan. Pakistan has always been a driving force of terrorism. In the name of the right to self-determination, Pakistan has been supporting all the unruly elements as well as encouraging and helping them. Since the 1980s, Pakistan has become a base and transit point for many Islamic groups.

Pakistan has always been calling Kashmir a part of India. It has never accepted Kashmir as part of India. First, there were talks and then there was war. But this issue could not be resolved. Islamabad started training terrorism in Kashmir. And found a new way in the form of struggle. It is spreading extremism and terrorism in South Asia to create ethnic and communal divisions. Pakistan has always been calling Kashmir a part of India. He has never considered Kashmir as a part of India. First, there was talk and then there was war. But this issue could not be resolved. Islamabad started training terrorism in Kashmir. And found a new way in the form of struggle. It is spreading extremism and terrorism in South Asia to create ethnic and communal divisions.

When Zia was in power, Pakistan launched a war against India under the code name 'Operation Topac'. The objective of this operation was to hurt the religious sentiments of the Kashmiri people, to incite communal and religious sentiments in Kashmir. Ultimately, creating conditions for waging Jihad. The features of 'Operation Topac' were: (a) launching the insurgency at a low level; (b) increasing pressure on

the Line of Control by infiltrating mercenaries and special forces to attack; (c) Using religion as a binding factor to incite and promote more and more Jihad.4). It was through this program that all efforts were made to support extremist and insurgency in North-East India and gradually spread terrorism to other parts of India. Terrorists claimed innumerable lives in Punjab in the 1980s. That was the work of the Pakistani establishment. Regarding Pakistan during the time of the Punjab crisis, Sanjay Hazarika said that “for years, the ISI had incited the Sikh extremists in the Punjab insurgency by arming and training them. 5).)Pakistan wanted to realize the establishment of independent Khalistan. But he could not succeed in doing so. Because of this, Pakistan completely changed its strategy towards Kashmir in the 1990s. After the Cold War, Islamabad adopted a new approach, increasing the effectiveness of cross-border terrorism to get Kashmir. ISI did not come forward, it started playing behind the scenes. It cleverly recruited hundreds of refugees from Afghanistan. The war was going on in Afghanistan. Unused refugees to spread terrorism all over India. It took control of the ongoing liberation movement in Kashmir and also provided weapons to the youth living in Kashmir as it wanted to spread terrorism. The ISI gradually turned Karachi into a hub of terrorism, in which people from different countries like Bangladeshis, Afghans, Burmese, Sri Lankans and the Philippines etc. joined. It also used the slogan that Islam is in danger in India. Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, and other Muslim countries, the percentage of terrorists gradually increased, reaching 40 percent in 1998. The number was very high. Pakistan used mercenaries to carry out terrorist operations in India. To promote terrorism, the ISI created the following problems: (a) religious fundamentalism was heavily propagated to maximize communalism; (b) trained Kashmiri people for terrorism and (c) trained youth to use automatic weapons, sabotage and spread terror. Apart from giving shelter to the terrorists, the Pakistani army also provided them a safe route to terrorize. They adopted many methods. Sometimes they hired Kashmiri shepherds living in the border areas to spread terror and sometimes they focused the attention of Indian soldiers on the Line of Control.

Attracted and provided them cover of fire from the other side. After infiltrating, a new command was set up to operate the mercenaries in various areas in collaboration with Kashmiri terrorists. Zafar was a former law minister and chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. He spoke at a Pakistan conference in London in September 1996 under Benazir Bhutto, saying that “Pakistan is doing everything in Kashmir. The Kashmiri movement is official. 6) Violence and terrorism in Kashmir Pakistani religious schools called Madrasas create terrorists

in the name of Jihad. Which are known as Madrasas. Madrassas are located all over Pakistan. These madrassas apart from providing free education apart from Islamic education also provide free food and accommodation to the children. The government funds these madrassas. Not only in Pakistan but more and more madrassas are being funded by Pakistanis in the country and abroad. Not all madrassas provide religious education. Many madrassas only teach extremism and jihad. To increase terrorism. They teach children guerrilla warfare in the name of Jihad. These religious schools encourage their graduates to fulfill their spiritual obligation by fighting with others. Former Pakistan Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said that “the brand of Islam they (madrassas) are teaching is not good for Pakistan.” “These madrassas are busy fomenting communal violence and poisoning the minds of people in the guise of religious training,” he said.<sup>7)</sup>

According to an estimate, there are around 50,000 madrassas in Pakistan. There are only 10 percent of madrassas that are registered by the government and the remaining 40 percent are controlled by the Jamiat-e-Ulema. Taliban has become much stronger than before under the supervision of Jamiat-e-Ulema. About one million students have received education and training in these madrassas and a large number of students are still receiving education.<sup>8)</sup> In Karachi alone, there are about 29 madrassas, each of which educates 2,000 students. Most of the schools inculcate the spirit of Jihad in their students instead of imparting education. It was also reported that books on Jihad were supplied to each madrassa. Some students were also sent to the battlefield to spread terror by teaching them.<sup>9)</sup>

Terrorist social scientists have been called the ‘weapon of the weak’ and terrorism the “weapon of the weakest”. Terrorism is an amorphous term and its activity is not at all easy to address either by the state or by civil society. In some countries, terrorism stems from religious extremism and in some countries, terrorism is an issue of identity. The desire to have a dignified and secure life or need for a democratic system becomes the motivating factor leading to extreme kinds of actions.

### **References**

1. (1988). For threats posed by terrorists. see Juliet Lodge (ed). *The Threat of Terrorism*. Boulder, Colo: Westview. (1987). Walter Laqueur, *The Age of Terrorism*. Little Brown: Boston.
2. Cited in Burton, M. Leiser. (1977). “Terrorism, Guerrilla Warfare, and International Morality”. *Stanford Journal of International Studies*. vol. 12. Spring. Pg. 39.

3. "Proxy War by Pakistan in Kashmir". *Sainik Samachar* 1-15 August. Pg. **15-18**. cited in Kanwal, Gurmeet. "Proxy War in Kashmir: Jihad or State-sponsored Terrorism?". *Strategic Analysis*. vol. 23. 7.
4. Sanjoy, Hazarika. (1994). *Strangers of the Mist: Tales of War and Peace from India's Northeast*. Penguin Books: New Delhi. Pg. **170**.
5. Cited in Kamath, P.M. (2001). "Terrorism in India: Impact on National Security". *Strategic Analysis*. vol. 25. no. 9. December. Pg. **1083**.
6. Stern, Jessica. "Pakistan's Jihad Culture". *Foreign Affairs*.
8. Stern, *ibid*. Rahimullah, Yusufzai. (1995). "Here come the Taliban". *Newsline*. February. Pg. **28**. and *The Tribune*. 26 June 2000. (2002). *Threats of Reli Politics*. vol. 1. no. 2. June. Pg. **14-15**. 3/4 in *Pakistan and India*. South Asia.
9. Owais, Tohid. (1997). "The Jihad at Home". *The Herald*, December. Pg. **63-64**. and Owais, Tohid. (1997). "The New Recruits". *The Herald*, December. Pg. **68**. cited in Mehrotra, O.N. "Madrassas in Pakistan: The Chief Promoter of Islamic Militancy and Terrorism". *Strategic Analysis* vol 23.