Strategic Responses to Terrorism: A Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Türkiye and Pakistan's Counter-Terrorism Policies

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ABSTRACT

The Turkish counter-terrorism authorities are the Turkish National Police responsible for urban security and the gendarmerie for rural security. The military operations are used for large-scale operations mainly against the IS and PKK. The counter-terrorism operations by security forces are based on anti-criminal and combating terrorism. Pakistan faced terrorism and extremism issues mainly after the 9/11 incident and joined the international war against terrorism in Afghanistan. Pakistan lost thousands of civilians and security forces personal and billions of economic losses in this war against terrorism. Pakistan mainly started the National Action Plan to counter extremism and terrorism in 2014. This article firstly discusses the counter-terrorism policies of Türkiye on a broader spectrum. Secondly, it will be assessed the counter-terrorism policies of Pakistan in detail. Finally, this article concludes with a comparative analysis of the counter-terrorism policies of both the countries Pakistan and Türkiye through a multidimensional perspective.

Key Words: Counter-Terrorism; Strategic Policies; Türkiye; Ethnicity, Extremism, Militants, Security Forces, Pakistan

INTRODUCTION

The complexity of anti -terrorist policies (CT) has demanded more and more nuanced approaches to states, particularly in regions harassed by persistent security challenges. Türkiye and Pakistan, two countries that share historical ties and face multifaceted terrorist threats, provide fundamental case studies to analyze CT practices from 2011 to 2021. Within this decade, both nations have evolved their strategies, addressing a spectrum of challenges while navigating intruders to geopolitical landscapes that influence their respective. Hassan, 2022).

Türkiye has embarked on a multifaceted approach for counter-terrorism, focusing not only on military interventions but also on socio-political strategies aimed at addressing the fundamental causes of extremism. This strategy has included a combination of intelligence operations, legislative reforms and community participation initiatives designed to reinforce confidence between the State and its citizens. In particular, the Turkish government has tried to remodel its narrative around the contra terrorism of a security -centered responses to a more holistic understanding that incorporates social development (Köksal, 2022). However, the effectiveness of these approaches has sometimes been eclipsed by significant challenges, including the resurgence of Kurdish militant groups, particularly the PKK, which continues to

undermine national security and requires a continuous reevaluation of government policies (Sadikzade, 2022).

Similarly, the anti -terrorism landscape of Pakistan has been marked by the need for adaptive measures in response to internal and external pressures. The State has faced the double spectrum of militant Islamism and sectarian violence, which have complicated its security environment. Although Pakistan has advanced substantial in the fight against terrorism through operations in their tribal areas and efforts to interact with local communities, he has also dealt with the paradox of the use of force by trying to promote reconciliation and peace (Mehar and Zaman, 2024). In addition, the effectiveness of Pakistan CT policies has been challenged by regional dynamics, particularly its complex relations with neighboring countries and the fluctuating influence of external Actors such as the United States and China (Rasool and Zaheer, 2024). The interaction between national policies and regional security dynamics has been fundamental in the configuration of both Türkiye and Pakistan TC approaches. In the context of global frameworks against terrorism and nature in evolution of threats, both countries have had to reassess their strategies continuously. Their experiences highlight the significant interaction between the military, political and social elements in the elaboration of effective counter -river policies, revealing the need for integral frameworks (Zaidi, 2024).

In addition, historical ties between Türkiye and Pakistan in the context of defense collaboration have even more relevant implications for their mutual CT strategies. A collaborative approach has facilitated the exchange of information, training programs and joint operations, reflecting a nuanced understanding of collective security among regional allies. The interconnection of their security challenges requires a concerted effort to address these problems in a consistent way (Tariq, 2024; Mehmood & Biçer, 2024).

In conclusion, a multidimensional analysis of the anti -terrorist policies of Türkiye and Pakistan from 2011 to 2021 reveals that both nations have used various strategies in response to a complex security panorama. However, although there have been attempts to participate in holistic approaches for counter-terrorism, the persistent challenges they face highlight the need for continuous adaptation and cooperation in the fight against terrorism (Shaiq, Rehan and Afzal, 2025). By understanding your individual and collective responses, we can obtain information about more effective frameworks to address the multiple nature of terrorism in the 21st century.

Türkiye due to terrorist attacks lost 3500 lives including the security forces persons and also killed 750 terrorists. An attack at Istanbul Ataturk Airport was as severe as damage a huge loss in shape of 45 people died and created insecurity in the whole region. It was a great shock for the Turkish security forces to look into the security architecture and the threats to the state by Uzbek as well as by the Chechen militants. Türkiye's Counter-Terrorism policies are mainly based on three elements: resolving the issue of Kurdish separatists, tackling IS, and addressing the Gulen movement as also declared by the government a terrorist group. Türkiye shared a border with Syria and hosted about 4 million refugees from Syria and at the same time a transit state for those who want to join IS. Türkiye also faced a failed attempt by the military against the government in 2016.(KFIR et al., 2018a)

The Pakistan government took many initiatives to enhance its counter-terrorism capacity legal and institutional to counter the extremism and terrorism curse in the state. In 2013, Pakistan's parliament passed a bill and established the National Counter Terrorism Authority to coordinate and managed the activities of various law enforcement agencies. NACTA will review and guide the government on the counter-terrorism policy options to be considered and enforced by the concerned authority. NACTA has a board of directors that, the Prime Minister, Interior Minister, Finance and Defense, all Chief Ministers, and the chief of the ISI, Intelligence Bureau, Military Intelligence, and Federal Investigation Agency. An executive committee also works under the command of the Interior Minister to assist and draw the board's policies of NACTA.

Pakistan's battle against extremism and terrorism will decide the future of this country as having a population of 220 million people, is armed with nuclear weapons and is surrounded by the toughest neighboring state. The instability factor destabilizes not only Pakistan but affects the countries such as Iran, India, and China. At the same time, it has implications for Saudi Arabia and the United States. Pakistan launched many military operations in the most affected areas in adjacent to the Afghanistan border. Other military operations in the city of Karachi and some areas of Punjab.(Feyyaz, 2013a) The persistent threat of terrorism in Pakistan is rooted in a complex interplay of internal vulnerabilities and external influences, which continue to shape the country's security and counterterrorism strategies (Bilal et al., 2022). This research will be qualitative in nature and content analysis will be used for the deep analysis of research through the different available sources.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Terrorism is a great danger to international security peace and stability. Türkiye is following and committed to mitigating the roots of this curse through the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy without any discrimination of any religion, nationality, civilization, or ethnic group. Türkiye adopted the approach of counter-terrorism with respect for rule of law and human rights and at the same time, the policies preserve the true spirit of the democratic system. Türkiye has adopted many amendments in its laws and manuals to address this issue by keeping in mind the importance of human rights through the capacity-building courses of law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities on the protection of human rights and the rehabilitation of prisoners. The constitutional amendments adopted by the referendum implemented the laws, especially the right of individuals for access to the court. ("Council of Europe," 1958a) Türkiye deals with the Turkish Hizballah in a so smart way that produces some lessons for the world community against the war on terrorism. The effective coordination and cooperation, rapid intelligence, and use of that intelligence to capture terrorists are just a few valuable insights. The terrorist organizations also used the IT system for their secrecy but the Turkish government used advanced technology to identify the sleeping cells of terrorists.(Nugent, 2004)

Policies to combat terrorism are critical tools for states faced with the complex challenges of terrorism. This review of the literature examines and compares the strategies to combat Türkiye and Pakistan terrorism from 2011 to 2021, focusing on their efficiency, socio-political contexts and the impact of these policies on internal and external dynamics. The two states have faced significant threats from terrorism, but their approaches reflect distinct historical, cultural and political contexts.

The socio-political contexts of Türkiye and Pakistan are an integral part of the understanding of their policies to combat terrorism. In Türkiye, the rise of various Islamist groups alongside Kurdish separatist movements shaped a landscape where efforts to combat terrorism are linked to questions of national identity and state (Türegün, 2025). Conversely, Pakistan's struggle against terrorism is influenced by regional geopolitics, in particular its historical conflicts with India and complex dynamics in Afghanistan (Kazmi et al., 2024). The two nations have experienced a transition in their security paradigms, actively engaging in the evolution of strategies which explain national and international pressures.

From 2011, Türkiye implemented a strategy to combat more proactive terrorism, marked by a combination of hard and gentle power measures. One of the important changes included the redefinition of terrorism in a broader ideological setting. The Turkish government has sought to approach the ideological foundations of radicalization by improving education and social protection programs (Dybovskaia, 2021). The impact of these initiatives has contributed to a nuanced understanding of the terrorist threat, stressing that an effective counter-terrorism requires more than a simple military action (Türegün, 2025). The Pakistan terrorism approach has been characterized by military operations and legislative reforms to improve the efficiency of security devices. In particular, the National Action Plan (NAP) emerged in response to the climbing of terrorist attacks, aimed at limiting violence through strict laws and reforms targeting various dimensions of terrorism (Ali et al., 2025; Akbar, 2023). However, the effectiveness of NAP has often been questioned, with criticisms focused on inconsistent implementation and the lack of long -term sustainable

strategies (Partov, 2022). The state-endorsed ideological narratives can intensify extremism, offering a comparative perspective that enriches the broader understanding of terrorism dynamics in South Asia (Rashid et al., 2022).

In terms of efficiency, Türkiye's terrorist fighting policies have given relative success in terms of reducing terrorist incidents, in particular with operations against PKK and its affiliates. The data indicates a significant decrease in attacks after the main military operations and the tightening of internal security measures (Hassan, 2022). On the contrary, Pakistan measures have shown mixed results, with a continuous risk of terrorism despite military successes. This dichotomy reflects the divergent impact of their respective policies; Türkiye's holistic approach seems to facilitate greater security results than Pakistan's heavy military strategies, which have sometimes exacerbated tensions (Aslam, 2024).

The societal implications of policies to combat terrorism in the two countries cannot be underestimated. In Türkiye, the mixture of military and social measures contributed to a somewhat polarized society, where criticisms of government policies often intertwine concerns about increased authoritarianism in the name of security (Erators, 2025). Turkish civil society has been actively involved in debates on justice and human rights, leading to a complex interaction between state security and individual freedoms. On the other hand, efforts to combat Pakistan terrorism are often observed through the lens of ethnic and sectarian divisions, affecting its social cohesion (Kazmi et al., 2024). The attention of the State on the responses led by the military sometimes alienated the minority communities and exacerbated the grievances, complicating the story of the fight against terrorism (Elmorsy, 2024).

In addition, the international dimensions of Türkiye and Pakistan's terrorist control strategies highlight their geopolitical positioning. The role of Türkiye in NATO and the commitment with the EU has helped shape its approach, creating a platform for efforts to combat collaborative terrorism through the regional allies (Sandano, 2024). On the other hand, Pakistan's security strategies are often captured between the United States and China, which influences its policies and its ability to fight terrorism. The evolution of relationships with China has facilitated a different approach, focusing on economic stability to support the fight against terrorism (Awan and Tariq, 2023).

These interconnections demonstrate that policies to fight terrorism cannot be isolated from the broader regional and international dynamics. While the two countries sail on their unique challenges, the lessons of their experiences can shed light on potential pathways for more integrated strategies that treat both security and socio-political factors. Although Türkiye's efficiency is obvious in operational success, he must also manage the socio -political benefits of his policies. Pakistan, on the other hand, continues to tackle the structural problems which affect the sustainability of its efforts to combat terrorism (Hasan and Morrison, n.d.).

In addition, refugee attacks have aroused the renewal of emphasis on the humanitarian aspects of counter-terrorism. Türkiye's experience with refugee entries has led to the development of policies that balance security and support, while Pakistan management of displaced populations due to terrorism and conflicts reflects continuous challenges in humanitarian response (Siddikoglu and Sagiroglu, 2023). The examination of these approaches to combating multifaceted terrorism through their impacts, their strategies and their socio-political contexts reveals essential information. While Türkiye and Pakistan have made progress in the fight against terrorism, the effectiveness of their policies varies considerably depending on the implementation, societal commitment and adaptive strategies to evolve threats. In the end, the promotion of security in the two countries requires a complete understanding of the interaction between military action and socio-political solutions (Düveroğlu, 2024).

In conclusion, the understanding of Türkiye and Pakistan's terrorism control policies reveals a nuanced dynamic that reflects their respective contexts. An assessment of these complexities can lead to improved political frameworks for the two countries, focusing on sustainable, inclusive and sensitive approaches to

fight effectively against terrorism. This comparison highlights the need for continuous evaluation and an adaptation of strategies to meet the challenges posed by terrorism and its deep causes in a globalized world. Pakistan lost everything from thousands of lives to billions of dollars after 9/11 but still lacks a comprehensive and coherent counterterrorism policy. Pakistan is facing a continuous threat from the fronts of the Malakand Division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas as now part of KPK province. The ethnic divisions intersect with terrorism, complicating security dynamics and requiring nuanced policy responses within the Pakistani context. (Abbas et al., 2022) The security landscape of Pakistan has remained deeply intertwined with developments across the border, where instability in Afghanistan has historically fueled militancy, cross-border terrorism, and internal security challenges for Pakistan (Rashid et al., 2022). The government in Pakistan just relies on the military solution instead of a comprehensive counterterrorism strategy through a long-term political and ideological solution. The military operations cleared an area very quickly and the terrorist escaped to the other areas especially the safe haven of Afghanistan and returned back after the operation. There is no mechanism in military operation areas for the rehabilitation and the role of civil administration is also negligible.(Basit, 2012) The collapse of U.S. liberal strategies in Afghanistan not only reshaped regional geopolitics but also intensified terrorism-related challenges for Pakistan. (Bilal et al., 2022).

National Counter Terrorism Authority Pakistan Ordinance 2010, established an authority with functions as receive and monitor the threats and managed it and conveyed to the concerned for action through a periodical review procedure. In the same way, to prepare a comprehended National Counter Terrorism and National Counter Extremism policies and review them. Moreover, to prepare action plans against extremism and terrorism and report to the federal government. It's also duty to carry the research work about the counter terrorism policies and prepared documents. Furthermore, to coordinate with the international authorities and countries to eliminate the curse of terrorism. (Nawaz, n.d.) In Pakistan, the intersection of international investment conflicts with domestic political instability and terrorism-related challenges (Abbas et al., 2022).

Pakistan launched a National Action Plan in 2014 after a massive attack by terrorist group on an Army Public School in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. This new counter-terrorism strategy prevented the extremist and terrorist groups to operate freely in the state. The terrorist attacks were made by the terrorist organization regularly by targeting the sectarian and religious minorities. The law enforcement agencies personal are killed and injured regularly from border of Afghanistan to the Karachi city. The National Action Plan contains important policy objectives and countering terrorism and extremism in state through a comprehensive plan. (Revisiting Counter-Terrorism Strategies in Pakistan: Opportunities and Pitfalls, 2015).

DISCUSSION

Türkiye and Pakistan, two nations with shared history and strategic interests, have developed different anti -terrorist strategies formed by their unique historical contexts. These strategies are critical to address persistent threats raised by terrorism in their regions and beyond. The analysis of these strategies reveals their marks of policies, effectiveness and socio -political impacts on national and regional security.

The historical contexts of Türkiye and Pakistan significantly influence their anti -terrorist approaches. Türkiye has faced numerous challenges, particularly derived from separatist movements such as PKK (Kurdish Workers Party), along with the threats of radical Islamist groups. Historically, Türkiye's response to terrorism has implied a combination of military responses and socio-economic integration efforts, which reflects a dual approach to the problem (Coşar & Cafnik-Uludağ, N.D.). On the contrary, the anti -terrorism strategy of Pakistan has evolved from an alignment of the cold war that fostered the militant groups for the strategic depth in Afghanistan until the realization of domestic security threats raised by these same groups in recent decades (Rahman, Sadiq and Shah, 2023).

This historical evolution has required a review of the anti -terrorist policies of Pakistan, changing a terrorism model sponsored by the State to one focused on internal security and counterinsurgency. In terms of policy frames, Türkiye emphasizes comprehensive measures that integrate military operations with socio -economic initiatives. This approach points not only to eradicating terrorist threats but also to address underlying complaints that feed such violence. The Government has implemented policies that strengthen intelligence capabilities and improve the application of the law, while investing in southeast regions to mitigate socio -economic disparities (Colakogu and Sakaogu, 2016).

Pakistan, on the other hand, has adopted a multifaceted anti -terrorism policy that includes military operations against terrorist groups, legislative reforms to empower the application of the law and the commitment to international partners for the exchange of intelligence and the development of capacities (Rahman et al., 2023). The National Action Plan, initiated in 2014, symbolizes this change, focusing on eliminating terrorist sanctuaries and addressing the ideological bases of extremism. The effectiveness of these strategies has been mixed. Türkiye has reported significant successes to reduce terrorism through military operations and intelligence -based actions, especially against PKK and ISIS affiliates. However, issues such as human rights violations and public dissent over hard hand tactics persist (Coşar and Cafnik-Uludağ, N.D.).

On the contrary, Pakistan's anti -terrorist efforts have had different degrees of success. Operations against high -profile terrorist groups have been effective in the short term, but the structural and ideological roots of extremism remain unfortunately, presenting a continuous challenge (Rahman et al., 2023). The socio -political impacts of these anti -terrorist strategies extend beyond national security. In Türkiye, the focus on militaristic solutions has led to a state of emergency measures that affect political dissent and civil liberties, which raises concerns about democratic setback (Hassan, 2022).

In Pakistan, security prioritization has often occurred at the expense of critical social services and education, potentially raising one more extremism (Mehmood & Bibler, N.D.). Regional implications are equally pronounced, since both countries face the challenge of maintaining strategic alliances while navigating complex geopolitical landscapes. The increasing ties of Türkiye with Central Asia and the dependence of Pakistan in China as a partner contribute to a remodeling of regional dynamics, impacting security discussions & anti -terrorist collaborations (Hassan, 2022).

The anti -terrorist strategies of Türkiye and Pakistan result from intricate historical contexts and marks of evolving policies, producing mixed effectiveness and important socio -political consequences. These strategies not only define their national security prospects, but also shape regional stability in an era marked by persistent and adaptive threats of terrorism. As both nations continue to refine their approaches, the integration of military actions with comprehensive socio -economic strategies can be crucial for long -term peace and stability in their regions.

Strategic Responses to Terrorism: Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Türkiye and Pakistan:

Dimension	Türkiye	Pakistan	Comparative Insight
Legal Framework	Anti-Terror Law (1991, amended), Criminal Code, EU/NATO/UN alignment.	Anti-Terrorism Act (1997), National Action Plan (2014), FATF compliance laws.	Both have strong legal bases, Türkiye aligns more with EU standards, Pakistan with global financial/UN frameworks.
Institutional Mechanisms	MIT (Intelligence), National Police, Gendarmerie, Armed Forces, Counter-Terrorism Department.	NACTA, ISI, Army, CTDs, paramilitary forces.	Türkiye: centralized and coordinated; Pakistan: coordination challenges despite strong institutions.
Military & Security	Cross-border operations in Iraq & Syria, domestic	Major operations: Zarb-e-Azb, Radd-ul-Fasaad,	Both rely heavily on military force; Türkiye focuses on

Dimension	Türkiye	Pakistan	Comparative Insight
Strategies	crackdowns on PKK, ISIS, DHKP-C.	Khyber-IV; focus on TTP, sectarian outfits, cross-border threats.	external & internal threats, Pakistan primarily on internal insurgencies.
Border Security	Tightened Syrian/Iraqi border controls, biometric systems, wall construction.	Border fencing with Afghanistan, biometric controls, enhanced patrols with Iran/India borders.	Both emphasize physical barriers & surveillance; Türkiye faces refugee flows, Pakistan faces Afghan border instability.
Counter-Radicalization	Diyanet-led religious oversight, education reforms, online monitoring, youth outreach.	Madrassa reforms, de-radicalization centers, community reintegration, media monitoring.	Türkiye relies on state religious institutions, Pakistan on madrassa regulation & reintegration.
International Cooperation	NATO, EU, UN, bilateral pacts with U.S., Russia, regional security initiatives.	UN, SCO, OIC, FATF-driven reforms, intelligence sharing with allies.	Türkiye: West-oriented but pragmatic; Pakistan: multi-vector cooperation, balancing global and regional partners.
Socio-Economic Measures	Regional development (esp. Southeast Anatolia), refugee integration, social welfare.	FATA/KP and Balochistan uplift, poverty alleviation, youth employment schemes.	Both use development as prevention, but face regional disparities limiting outcomes.
Technology & Intelligence	Advanced: drones, AI-based surveillance, cyber security, counter-financing tools.	Growing use of surveillance, drones, financial intelligence, cyber monitoring.	Türkiye has more advanced tech capacity, Pakistan catching up but limited by resources.
Effectiveness & Challenges	Reduced major attacks but criticized for civil liberties trade-offs; regional tensions persist.	Significant drop in terrorism since 2014, but resilience of militant groups and governance gaps remain.	Both effective in reducing violence, but long-term root causes and rights issues challenge sustainability.

Table. 01

Counter-Terrorism Policies and Strategies of Türkiye

Turkey's anti -terrorism policies have evolved drastically over the years, modeled by both home threats and international dynamics. The main domestic threat derives from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a designated terrorist organization that aims at Kurdish autonomy. The rebirth of PKK's activities led to a substantial change in Turkey's strategy, especially after the failed attempt at the coup d'état on July 15, 2016. This accident marked a transition from a previously used "smart power" approach, underlining the soft power and dialogue, towards a more aggressive strategy of "hard power" (Akçay, 2024). The Turkish government has intensified military operations, greater sharing of intelligence and established complete legal paintings aimed at effectively contrasting terrorism (Demir, 2025).

The cross -border operations of Türkiye, in particular against the PKK bases in Iraq, highlight the effectiveness and impact of its anti -terrorism strategies. Since 2004 various operations have been launched with the aim of dismantling the terrorist infrastructure (Kocatepe & şahin, 2025). These operations have had significant implications for the stability of Iraq, since they often push the boundaries of the conflict in the Iraqi territory, leading to complex diplomatic challenges (Kocatepe & şahin, 2025; Saleh &

Hamadamin, 2025). Consequently, the relationship between Turkey and its neighbors is tense, raising questions about sovereignty and branches of unilateral military interventions.

Internationally, Turkey's anti -terrorism policies are not without complexity. The strategic partnerships of the country, in particular with NATO and neighboring countries in the Middle East, often travel a precarious line. Collaborative efforts face control regarding human rights violations, since the state approach can be perceived as heavy (Kushevska et al., 2025). In addition, the challenge of balanced national security and fundamental rights have increasingly attracted criticism at national and international level (Demir & Basug, 2025).

The implications for national security are profound. While the approach of hard power effectively interrupts PKK operations effectively, it cultivates an environment of fear that can exacerbate divisions within the Turkish society, leading to distrust in government institutions (Demir & Basug, 2025). The public fear of terrorism tends to influence citizens' perceptions on safety and security, which is essential to maintain social order. On the other hand, growing military commitments can breed anti-tutor feelings between the Kurdish populations in Iraq and Syria, further complicating the anti-terrorism narrative (Yusuf, 2024). In facing the wider panorama of regional security, Turkey's responses to security threats in neighboring countries, such as his military support for Somalia, reflect an extension of his anti -terrorism policy (Yaşar, 2025). These actions report the intention of Türkiye to establish themselves as a key security player within the region while aiming with his own security challenges.

Turkey's anti -terrorism policies reveal an adaptive but aggressive strategy in response to evolving threats. While the effectiveness of hard power is evident in momentary tactical successes, the long -term implications for national security and regional relationships place significant challenges. While Turkey continues to recalibrate its approach, the interaction between domestic stability and international cooperation will be crucial in navigating strategic and ethically of anti -terrorism (Yusuf, 2024; Kızılkan, 2025).

Türkiye improved its institutional and operational counter-terrorism policies and capabilities through the advancement of technical infrastructure and capacity-building training of forces as well as data collection and analysis of data. Witness protection committees were operationalized to save the lives of properties, especially counter-terrorism affecters. The sole responsibility shifted from the Ministry of Interior to the Turkish National Police to overview and implement the judicial decisions regarding witnesses. The enhancement of its importance can be gauged that a Secretariat for Public Order and Security was also established. Its main objective was to develop and evaluate counter-terrorism policies and maintain healthy coordination among departments as well as inform the public about the policies and gain their support. Another body namely Assessment Commission on Freezing Assets was also established under the command of the President of the Turkish National Financial Intelligence Unit to deal with the asset freezing request by Türkiye to other countries and other countries to Türkiye as well. (CAPACITY, 2013)

Türkiye remained a central target point of the Islamic State terrorist group agenda in the last few years. These groups made many attacks in Türkiye after Syria and Iraq in 2014. This caused a loss of 330 people and more than 1200 injured. However, this organization does not declare war against Türkiye but attacks impact a lot. IS accepted an attack on a journalist of Syria in Türkiye but not against the state. In January 2017 IS claimed its first attack on a nightclub caused the loss of 39 people including foreigners in Türkiye and showed a sign of terror from IS in Türkiye.(Soliev, 2017a).

Counter-Terrorism Policies and Strategies of Türkiye:

Aspect	Key Features	Effectiveness / Challenges
Legal Framework	Comprehensive Anti-Terror Law (1991, amended multiple times); Criminal Code provisions against terrorism; alignment with NATO & UN conventions.	Provides strong legal basis, but criticized for broad definitions and impact on civil liberties.

Aspect	Key Features	Effectiveness / Challenges
Institutional Mechanisms	National Intelligence Organization (MIT), Gendarmerie, National Police, Turkish Armed Forces, Counter-Terrorism Department.	Strong inter-agency coordination, but balancing security vs. rights remains sensitive.
Military Strategies	Large-scale operations against PKK, ISIS, DHKP-C, and cross-border actions in Iraq and Syria.	Effective in degrading terrorist networks but raises regional tensions and humanitarian concerns.
Border Security	Tightened surveillance, biometric systems, and physical barriers along borders with Syria, Iraq, and Iran.	Reduces infiltration risks, but porous terrain and refugee flows complicate full control.
Counter-Radicalization	Community engagement programs, religious affairs oversight (Diyanet), education campaigns, online monitoring.	Preventive but challenged by digital radicalization and socio-political divisions.
International Cooperation	Active role in NATO, UN, EU counter-terrorism platforms; bilateral security agreements (esp. with U.S., Russia, neighbors).	Strong global coordination, though geopolitical frictions sometimes limit trust.
Socio-Economic Measures	Investments in underdeveloped regions (esp. Southeast Anatolia), integration programs for refugees, development-led security.	Helps address root causes, but uneven development persists.
Technology & Intelligence	Use of drones, AI-driven surveillance, cyber security measures to track terrorist financing and communications.	Advanced tools boost effectiveness but raise privacy and accountability concerns.

Table. 02

Türkiye is fighting against different terrorist groups which create great terror internationally in different dimensions. Terrorist countries with different ethnic, political affiliations, and religious and ideological stances have been creating a direct threat to the country. Türkiye planned strategies to eliminate this curse the same time supporting the international stance and providing cooperation in this regard. ISIS which creates a great threat internationally and has a great space at the administrative level become a great concern for Türkiye. Türkiye is engaged on both fronts in Syria and Iraq and revised its foreign policy.(Hashim, 2012a)

Türkiye launched almost 37000 anti-terrorist operations in which 31000 were against the PKK and 6000 in urban areas in 2016 alone. The important memorandum of understanding on Counter-terrorism was signed between Türkiye and Australia in which the areas of cooperation included border and transport security, anti-terrorism financing, intelligence, defense, and countering nuclear, chemical, and biological terrorism. Türkiye in between 2011-2016 deported many people around 4,000 having links to terrorism and at the same time banned people around 49,000 from more than a hundred countries from entering. Another cooperation agreement was signed between Türkiye and Russia through which the Turkish purchased Russian S-400 surface-to-air missiles. Türkiye also supported the peace talks on Syria between Russia and Iran in Astana.("Council of Europe," 1958b).

Türkiye's counter-terrorism strategy has a great paradigm shift as democratic openness and cultural, political, social, and economic dimensions to attain international cooperation. It stands on the justification of terrorist acts and abuses of terrorist groups to address their narrative issues. As the Turkish government has genuine concerns to address the problems of its citizens without any discrimination, therefore it pressures the authorities to eliminate issues of important nature by terrorists. In this way, Türkiye focused

on special legislation to gain public support in relation to counter-terrorism policies and the contribution of all the institutions was also inculcated in this context.("Council of Europe," 1958b)

The south-eastern side of Türkiye faced many attacks by the PKK with huge intensity in 2012. These attacks improved the strength of PKK guerrillas as settled in other areas. The Turkish military forces handled these attacks with great military tactics. However, the complex political structure in the region played a very significant role as the Bashar-al-Asaad provided support to PKK on one side and withdraw Syrian forces from the bordering region of Türkiye and Iraq on other side.(Hashim, 2012a) The IS attacks targeted across the European peninsula including the Berlin, Nice, Paris and Brussels that enforced the Türkiye from west to securitize its borders and other security measures against the network of IS. The intensity of IS attacks in Türkiye jumped high in 2016 from civilians to tourist targeted. The alarming situation pulled the Ankara to implement its counter-terrorism policies and strategies on practical grounds. The Turkish forces launched the military operations against the IS across the border and allowed the US forces to launch its operations against IS in Syria and Iraq from the airbase. The Türkiye reinforce the security in its border areas and launched its first attack against IS in Syria.(Soliev, 2017b)

The Operation Euphrates Shield by the Turkish forces launched in 2016 with the assistance of other groups to clean its borders and other zones from Daesh network. The operation was successfully completed in 216 days through three different stages. The main focus of this operation was at the areas badly affected by the Daesh organization to maintain peace and control the civilian activities. The Turkish forces controlled the areas of Jarablus and A'zaz by eliminating the factors of Daesh from the border's areas on 6th of September 2016. The final part of the operation was very hardest due to the longest operation as the intensity of the clashes between the groups was so high. The forces stopped any support to Daesh and control the areas of Al-Bab and Dabiq on 23rd February 2017 by destroying tanks, vehicles, buildings, and positions of Daesh. (BIÇAKCI, 2019) As of 2011, Türkiye faced significant challenges concerning terrorism, particularly from groups such as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Islamic State (ISIL).

Terrorism-Related Challenges in Türkiye:

Challenge Area	Key Issues	Impact
Kurdish Insurgency (PKK)	Armed conflict with PKK since the 1980s; cross-border sanctuaries in Iraq and Syria.	Prolonged internal security threat, high military and civilian casualties, and regional instability.
ISIS and Jihadist Terrorism	Suicide bombings, recruitment networks, and infiltration through Syrian border (esp. 2014–2017).	Civilian casualties, strain on tourism, heightened need for border security.
Left-Wing Extremism	Groups like DHKP-C conducting targeted assassinations and bombings.	Persistent urban security threat, undermines political stability.
Foreign Fighter Flows	Proximity to Syria made Türkiye a transit hub for foreign fighters.	Security risks from radicalized returnees, international criticism of border control.
Refugee Crisis Linkages	Hosting ~3.6 million Syrian refugees created vulnerabilities to radicalization and infiltration.	Pressures on social services, heightened social tensions, security risks.
Urban Terror Attacks	Bombings in Ankara, Istanbul, and other cities targeting civilians and state institutions.	Public fear, economic losses (esp. tourism), political polarization.
Regional Geopolitics	Cross-border conflicts in Syria and Iraq fuel terrorism spillover.	Ongoing tension with neighbors, challenges in balancing security with

Challenge Area	Key Issues	Impact
		diplomacy.
Balancing Security & Rights	Broad counter-terror laws criticized for limiting civil liberties and opposition voices.	Domestic and international criticism; risk of alienation among communities.

Table. 03

To address these threats, Türkiye employed a variety of counter-terrorism policies and strategies. Türkiye enacted various laws to combat terrorism, including the Anti-Terror Law, which provided the government with broad powers to detain and prosecute individuals suspected of terrorism-related activities. Critics argued that these laws could be used to suppress political dissent and civil liberties. The Turkish Armed Forces conducted counter-terrorism operations, especially against the PKK, both within Türkiye and across the border in northern Iraq, where the PKK had established bases. These operations aimed to weaken the group's capabilities and disrupt its activities.(Totten, 2015a)

Türkiye cooperated with international partners, including NATO allies and regional countries, in sharing intelligence related to terrorist threats. This collaboration aimed to enhance the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts and prevent attacks. Due to its geographical location, Türkiye faced challenges in controlling its borders and preventing the infiltration of foreign fighters and weapons. The government implemented measures to enhance border security and curb the flow of militants and weapons. Türkiye implemented strategies to target the financial networks of terrorist groups, including freezing assets and monitoring financial transactions to disrupt their funding sources. To address the issue of radicalization, Türkiye initiated programs to rehabilitate individuals who had been involved in extremist activities or sympathized with terrorist ideologies. These programs aimed to reintegrate former militants back into society. Türkiye participated actively in regional and international forums on counter-terrorism and collaborated with organizations like the United Nations, the European Union, and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) to develop and implement comprehensive strategies.

As of 2012, Türkiye continued to face significant challenges from various terrorist groups, including the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the threat of spillover from the Syrian civil war, which saw the rise of the Islamic State (ISIL). To address these ongoing security concerns, Türkiye maintained and evolved its counter-terrorism policies and strategies. Here are some of the key aspects of Türkiye's approach to counter-terrorism in 2012. Türkiye continued to conduct military operations against the PKK, especially in southeastern regions of the country and across the border into northern Iraq, where the PKK had bases. These operations aimed to weaken the group's capabilities and disrupt its activities. Given the ongoing Syrian civil war, Türkiye faced challenges in controlling its borders and preventing the infiltration of foreign fighters, weapons, and potential threats. The government intensified its efforts to enhance border security and surveillance to address these issues.(Group, 2012)

Türkiye continued to collaborate with international partners, sharing intelligence related to terrorist threats and foreign fighters. This cooperation aimed to enhance the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts and prevent attacks. Türkiye maintained its focus on targeting the financial networks of terrorist groups, freezing assets, and monitoring financial transactions to disrupt their funding sources. The Turkish government continued to rely on counter-terrorism legislation, including the Anti-Terror Law, to detain and prosecute individuals suspected of terrorist activities. However, critics continued to voice concerns about the potential misuse of these laws to suppress political dissent and civil liberties. Türkiye emphasized the importance of rehabilitation programs for former militants or individuals with extremist tendencies. These programs aimed to de-radicalize and reintegrate such individuals back into society.

Türkiye actively participated in regional and international forums on counter-terrorism and continued to collaborate with organizations like the United Nations, the European Union, and the Global

Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) to develop and implement comprehensive strategies. Türkiye faced challenges in dealing with the spillover effects of the Syrian civil war, particularly regarding the rise of the Islamic State (ISIL) and the flow of foreign fighters across its borders. The government worked to address this threat through military operations, intelligence sharing, and regional partnerships. It's important to recognize that the security situation in Türkiye and the region was fluid, and counter-terrorism policies and strategies likely evolved to adapt to new challenges throughout 2012. For the most current information, please refer to up-to-date sources or official statements from the Turkish government. (Rrustemi et al., 2019)

Religious terrorism in Türkiye has been a persistent challenge over the past decade (2011-2021), with various extremist groups employing violence in the name of religion to pursue their agendas. To examines the nature of religious terrorism in Türkiye during this period, the factors contributing to its prevalence, the government's responses, and the impact of such acts on society and security. During the period from 2011 to 2021, Türkiye faced threats from various religiously motivated terrorist organizations.

One of the most significant groups was the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has adopted a Marxist-Leninist ideology but also incorporated elements of Kurdish nationalism and, to some extent, religious rhetoric. Additionally, the rise of the Islamic State (ISIL) in Syria and Iraq had implications for Türkiye's security, leading to incidents of violence perpetrated by both domestic and foreign fighters. Several factors contributed to the emergence and continuation of religious terrorism in Türkiye during this period.(Hashim, 2012b)

The longstanding Kurdish issue played a significant role in fueling religiously motivated terrorism. The PKK, at times, employed religious messaging to garner support among the Kurdish population and exploit grievances related to discrimination and lack of political representation. The Syrian civil war had a spillover effect on Türkiye, attracting foreign fighters who later posed a threat to the country's security. The porous borders allowed the infiltration of radicalized individuals and weapons, leading to a rise in terrorist activities. Socio-economic disparities and regional disparities in Türkiye also played a role in radicalization. Some individuals, particularly from impoverished areas, were vulnerable to extremist ideologies that offered a sense of purpose and belonging. Türkiye's geopolitical position in a turbulent region made it susceptible to regional conflicts and dynamics, further contributing to the rise of religious terrorism. The Turkish government responded to the challenges of religious terrorism with a mix of security-oriented and preventive measures. The government conducted military operations against the PKK both within Türkiye and in northern Iraq, aiming to dismantle the group's infrastructure and neutralize its leadership.(Cordesman, 2018)

Türkiye intensified efforts to secure its borders to prevent the influx of foreign fighters and curb the flow of weapons. Türkiye implemented counter-terrorism legislation, including the Anti-Terror Law, to prosecute individuals involved in terrorist activities and disrupt terror networks. Türkiye collaborated with international partners, sharing intelligence to combat transnational terrorist threats and foreign fighters. The government initiated de-radicalization and rehabilitation programs to address the issue of radicalization and reintegrate former extremists back into society. The prevalence of religious terrorism in Türkiye during this period had significant consequences. Religious terrorist attacks resulted in the loss of numerous lives and caused disruption and fear among the population.

The threat of terrorism affected tourism, investments, and economic activities, impacting Türkiye's economy. Religious terrorism strained social cohesion and created divisions within the society, particularly between different religious and ethnic groups. The government's response to terrorism, including controversial measures, raised concerns about civil liberties and democratic values. Religious terrorism in Türkiye from 2011 to 2021 posed serious challenges to security, social cohesion, and political stability. Addressing the root causes of radicalization, promoting inclusivity, and engaging in regional cooperation will be essential in effectively countering this threat. Moving forward, Türkiye must continue to adopt a

comprehensive approach that balances security measures with efforts to address grievances and build resilience within its society.(Arosoaie, 2015)

Terrorist strategies and tactics in Türkiye have evolved over the years and have been employed by various extremist groups. Terrorist groups in Türkiye have frequently used bombings and armed attacks as a means to cause fear and panic among the population. These attacks target public spaces, government buildings, security forces, and civilian gatherings, resulting in loss of life and damage to property. Some terrorist groups, such as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), have engaged in kidnapping and hostage-taking as a strategy to exert pressure on the government, gain media attention, and secure the release of their imprisoned members. Suicide bombings have been a favored tactic employed by extremist organizations in Türkiye. Suicide bombers, often driven by radical ideologies, carry out attacks to maximize casualties and create widespread terror.

The PKK, in particular, has been known to use guerrilla warfare tactics, including ambushes on security forces and hit-and-run attacks in rural and mountainous regions. Terrorist groups use media and propaganda to disseminate their ideologies, recruit new members, and gain support from sympathizers. Social media platforms have become important tools for spreading extremist messages and recruitment efforts. Some terrorist groups engage in extortion activities, demanding money from local businesses and individuals to fund their operations.(KFIR et al., 2018b)

In the context of political and religious tensions, some terrorist organizations have targeted religious or ethnic minorities, seeking to deepen divisions within society. Türkiye's geographical location has made it vulnerable to cross-border infiltration by foreign fighters and terrorists, particularly during conflicts in neighboring countries like Syria and Iraq. Terrorist groups often rely on smuggling to obtain weapons, explosives, and ammunition. These illicit arms supplies enable them to carry out attacks and maintain their operational capabilities.

In recent years, there have been instances of cyber-attacks or hacking attempts by terrorist sympathizers to disrupt government services or spread propaganda online. It's crucial to note that the Turkish government and security forces have been engaged in efforts to counter these terrorist strategies and tactics. They have implemented various measures, including intelligence gathering, law enforcement operations, border security enhancements, counter-radicalization programs, and international cooperation, to mitigate the impact of terrorism in the country. However, the dynamic nature of terrorism requires ongoing vigilance and adaptability in countering these threats effectively.(O'Brien, 2016)

Extremism and radicalization have been significant concerns in Türkiye, and the country has faced challenges from various ideological groups over the years. One of the longest-standing challenges in Türkiye is the Kurdish separatist movement, represented primarily by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The PKK is a militant organization seeking autonomy or independence for the Kurdish minority in Türkiye. Its ideologies blend Kurdish nationalism with elements of Marxism-Leninism. The group has engaged in armed conflict with the Turkish government, resulting in numerous casualties over the decades. Türkiye has also faced threats from religious extremist groups, including the Islamic State (ISIL) and other jihadist elements. The rise of ISIL in neighboring Syria and Iraq has led to the recruitment of foreign fighters from Türkiye, and some individuals have carried out attacks or participated in armed conflicts abroad. Alongside the PKK, there have been instances of left-wing extremist groups in Türkiye advocating for various social and political causes.

These groups have sometimes resorted to violence and insurgency tactics. Türkiye has witnessed the emergence of far-right and nationalist groups promoting ultra-nationalist ideologies. Some of these groups have been involved in violent confrontations with perceived enemies, including ethnic and religious minorities. As with many other countries, the internet and social media have played a role in radicalization in Türkiye. Extremist propaganda, recruitment efforts, and ideological indoctrination have been disseminated through online platforms. Socio-economic disparities, unemployment, and political

grievances have contributed to radicalization among certain segments of the population, making them more susceptible to extremist ideologies. Türkiye's geographical location and involvement in regional conflicts have exposed it to foreign influences, including the spill-over of radical ideologies from neighboring countries.(Bilgel & Karahasan, 2017a)

Türkiye has employed law enforcement and security measures to apprehend and disrupt extremist networks, leading to numerous counter-terrorism operations. The Turkish government has implemented counter-terrorism legislation to prosecute individuals involved in extremist activities and organizations. Türkiye has enhanced border security to prevent the infiltration of foreign fighters and weapons. The government has initiated programs to address the root causes of radicalization and promote de-radicalization and rehabilitation of individuals involved in extremist activities. Türkiye has engaged in international cooperation to combat terrorism and address regional security challenges. Extremism and radicalization remain complex challenges for Türkiye. The diverse range of ideologies and causes driving extremism requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to address the root causes and mitigate the threats posed by various extremist groups. Effective counter-radicalization efforts, community engagement, and addressing socio-economic disparities are crucial to countering extremism and fostering a more inclusive and stable society.

Türkiye conducts intelligence operations to safeguard its national security, prevent terrorist activities, and gather information on potential threats and risks. These operations involve various intelligence agencies and units, each with specific responsibilities. National Intelligence Organization (Millî İstihbarat Teşkilatı, MİT) is Türkiye's primary intelligence agency responsible for collecting intelligence both domestically and abroad. It focuses on counter-terrorism, foreign intelligence, and ensuring national security. MİT collaborates with other agencies and partners internationally to gather and analyze intelligence. The National Police Department of Türkiye also has its intelligence units responsible for domestic intelligence gathering and counter-terrorism efforts within the country. Gendarmerie General Command (Jandarma Genel Komutanlığı) a branch of the Turkish Armed Forces responsible for rural law enforcement and internal security, also has intelligence units focused on gathering information related to domestic security threats.(Soliev, 2017c)

The Turkish Armed Forces have their intelligence units responsible for military intelligence and counter-intelligence activities. Intelligence operations in Türkiye cover various areas, including counter-terrorism, border security, cyber intelligence, political intelligence, and economic intelligence. These operations involve both human intelligence (HUMINT) and technical intelligence (SIGINT) gathering methods, including surveillance, reconnaissance, electronic interception, and analysis of open-source information. It is important to note that the success of intelligence operations depends on the accuracy and timeliness of the information gathered, as well as effective coordination and collaboration among different intelligence agencies and departments. Additionally, intelligence operations must be conducted within legal frameworks, respecting individual rights and privacy.

Given the sensitive and classified nature of intelligence operations, many details about specific operations or ongoing activities are not publicly available. Türkiye has been actively engaged in cyber operations, both in defensive and offensive capacities. Türkiye recognizes the importance of cyberspace as a domain for national security and has taken measures to enhance its cyber capabilities and protect its critical infrastructure from cyber threats. Türkiye has developed a National Cyber Security Strategy to address the growing cyber threats and challenges. The strategy outlines the country's approach to safeguarding its cyber domain, protecting its critical infrastructure, and ensuring national security in the digital age. Türkiye's cyber defense efforts involve securing government networks, critical infrastructure, and sensitive information from cyber-attacks. The country has established cyber defense units within various government agencies to monitor, detect, and respond to cyber threats in real-time. Türkiye has put in place cyber incident response teams responsible for coordinating responses to cyber incidents, mitigating cyber-attacks, and assisting in recovery efforts.(Fortna, 2015a)

Turkish authorities actively investigate and prosecute cybercrime cases, including hacking, data breaches, and other forms of cyber offenses. Legal frameworks have been established to address cybercrime and impose penalties on offenders. The Turkish government has undertaken initiatives to raise public awareness about cybersecurity risks and best practices. Educational programs and campaigns aim to educate individuals, businesses, and organizations about cyber threats and how to protect themselves. Like many other countries, Türkiye likely possesses offensive cyber capabilities. However, specific details of such operations are not publicly disclosed due to their sensitive nature. Türkiye collaborates with international partners on matters related to cybersecurity, information sharing, and cyber defense. Participating in international forums and initiatives enables the country to strengthen its cybersecurity posture and contribute to global efforts in countering cyber threats. It's important to note that cyber operations and strategies continually evolve to keep pace with emerging cyber threats and technological advancements. As such, the information provided here offers a general overview of Türkiye's approach to cyber security and cyber operations as of September 2021.

Risk and threat assessment in Türkiye is an essential component of the country's national security strategy. Turkish authorities regularly analyze and evaluate various risks and threats, both internal and external, to identify potential vulnerabilities and develop appropriate responses. Turkish authorities closely monitor the activities of terrorist organizations, such as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Islamic State (ISIL), and other extremist groups. Risk assessments are conducted to gauge the potential for terrorist attacks, recruitment efforts, and the presence of foreign fighters.

The government assesses cyber threats and vulnerabilities to safeguard critical infrastructure, protect sensitive information, and defend against cyber-attacks on government networks and private enterprises. Given Türkiye's strategic location between Europe and the Middle East, risk assessments are essential in evaluating potential risks related to cross-border infiltration, smuggling, and trafficking of illegal goods, weapons, and individuals. Türkiye's proximity to conflicts in neighboring countries, such as Syria and Iraq, requires a careful evaluation of the security implications and potential risks posed by spillover effects, including the movement of refugees, foreign fighters, and terrorist organizations.(Totten, 2015b)

Risk assessments consider factors affecting political stability within Türkiye, including domestic political tensions, social unrest, and potential threats to public safety. Türkiye's reliance on energy imports and its role as an energy transit corridor require risk assessments to address potential disruptions to energy supplies and infrastructure security. Assessing risks associated with natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, is crucial to effective disaster preparedness and response planning. Assessments are conducted to evaluate economic risks, including inflation, currency fluctuations, external debt, and potential impacts on financial stability and the overall economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of assessing health risks, including infectious diseases and public health emergencies.

Türkiye's relations with other countries and its geopolitical positioning in the region necessitate the assessment of potential diplomatic and security risks. The findings from these risk and threat assessments inform the development of policies, strategies, and resource allocation for national security and emergency response planning. They also help prioritize areas of focus for law enforcement, intelligence agencies, and other relevant authorities in their efforts to mitigate risks and safeguard Türkiye's security and stability. As with any nation, the accuracy and effectiveness of risk and threat assessments depend on the availability of reliable data, intelligence, and expert analysis. Continual updates and adjustments to assessments are essential to address emerging threats and changing security dynamics effectively.

Conflict, crime, and political violence have been significant challenges in Türkiye over the years, impacting the country's stability and security. The conflict with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has been a longstanding challenge in Türkiye. The PKK, a militant group seeking autonomy for the Kurdish minority, has engaged in armed insurgency against the Turkish government since the 1980s. The conflict has resulted in thousands of deaths and extensive damage to infrastructure in southeastern Türkiye.

Türkiye has been affected by the spillover of the Syrian civil war, with cross-border incidents, refugee flows, and the presence of terrorist groups like the Islamic State (ISIL) posing security threats. Türkiye has faced challenges from organized criminal groups involved in activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundering. As in other countries, Türkiye confronts cybercrime, including hacking, financial fraud, and online scams, which pose threats to individuals and businesses. Türkiye serves as a transit and destination country for human trafficking, particularly for irregular migrants trying to reach Europe.(Bilgel & Karahasan, 2017b)

In 2016, Türkiye experienced a significant political violence incident with a failed coup attempt. A faction within the military attempted to overthrow the government, resulting in violence, loss of life, and political repercussions. Türkiye has witnessed terrorist attacks carried out by various groups, including the PKK, ISIL, and left-wing extremists. These attacks targeted civilians, security forces, and public spaces. Political tensions within Türkiye have occasionally led to violence during protests and demonstrations. The Turkish government has implemented various measures to address conflict, crime, and political violence. The government conducts military and law enforcement operations against terrorist groups, particularly the PKK and ISIL. Türkiye has intensified border security measures to combat smuggling and infiltration of terrorists and foreign fighters. Türkiye has enacted counterterrorism and organized crime legislation to prosecute offenders and dismantle criminal networks.

The government has initiated political and social reforms to address underlying grievances, particularly related to the Kurdish issue. Turkish law enforcement agencies actively combat crime and cybercrime through investigations and operations. Türkiye collaborates with international partners in intelligence sharing to combat transnational threats. Türkiye engages in diplomatic efforts to address conflicts in neighboring regions and seeks to promote regional stability. Conflict, crime, and political violence have posed significant challenges to Türkiye's security and stability. The government's efforts to address these issues include counterterrorism operations, legal measures, intelligence sharing, and reforms to address underlying grievances. Continuing to address these challenges will require a comprehensive approach, effective law enforcement, and regional cooperation to foster peace and security within Türkiye and the wider region.

Non-religious terrorism in Türkiye refers to acts of violence and politically motivated attacks carried out by groups or individuals with ideologies that are not explicitly tied to religious beliefs. While religious terrorism has been a significant concern in Türkiye, non-religious terrorism has also played a role in the country's security landscape. Left-wing extremist groups have historically been active in Türkiye, advocating for socialist or communist ideologies and engaging in violent actions.

One prominent group is the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C), which has been involved in armed attacks, assassinations, and bombings. Although the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has incorporated religious rhetoric at times, its primary ideology is based on Marxist-Leninist principles and Kurdish nationalism. As such, the PKK is often categorized as a non-religious terrorist organization. The group has been involved in an armed conflict with the Turkish government, seeking autonomy or independence for the Kurdish population. Ethnic nationalist groups with separatist agendas have engaged in violent actions to promote their causes. For example, the Grey Wolves, an ultra-nationalist organization, has been involved in politically motivated attacks.(Soliev, 2017d).

Türkiye has seen the emergence of anarchist and anti-capitalist groups that have engaged in protests, demonstrations, and occasional acts of violence to express their political beliefs. It's important to note that while some terrorist groups in Türkiye may not have explicit religious motivations, they often intersect with other issues such as ethnic, national, or social grievances. Non-religious terrorism in Türkiye can stem from a range of political, economic, and historical factors, and addressing these root causes is crucial for effective counter-terrorism efforts. The Turkish government has responded to non-religious terrorism through a combination of law enforcement measures, intelligence operations, and efforts to address underlying grievances. Counterterrorism legislation, intelligence sharing, and regional cooperation are

integral to the government's efforts to combat non-religious terrorism and maintain security and stability in the country.

These policies aim to prevent radicalization, promote social cohesion, and safeguard national security. Türkiye has enacted counterterrorism legislation to prosecute individuals involved in extremist activities and organizations. These laws provide the government with the legal tools to address radicalization and terrorism-related offenses. Türkiye has established de-radicalization and rehabilitation programs to address the root causes of radicalization and provide support to individuals who have been involved in extremist activities. These programs aim to reintegrate former extremists back into society and help prevent recidivism.

The Turkish government has implemented educational initiatives and awareness campaigns to promote critical thinking, tolerance, and respect for diverse viewpoints. These efforts are designed to inoculate individuals against extremist ideologies and foster a more resilient society. Law enforcement and intelligence agencies monitor individuals and groups suspected of promoting or engaging in extremist activities. Surveillance measures aim to identify and prevent potential threats to national security. Türkiye has taken measures to address online radicalization by working with internet service providers to block access to extremist websites and propaganda.

The government also encourages social media platforms to remove content that promotes violence and terrorism. The government engages with local communities, religious leaders, and civil society organizations to build trust and address grievances that could be exploited by extremist groups. Community engagement helps to foster a sense of belonging and prevents marginalized groups from becoming susceptible to extremist ideologies. It's important to note that counter-extremism policies are continually evolving to adapt to changing threats and challenges. The effectiveness of these policies also depends on their implementation, coordination among various government agencies, and the commitment of society as a whole to counter extremist narratives.(Fortna, 2015b)

One of the central pieces of counter-terrorism legislation in Türkiye is the "Anti-Terror Law" (Terörle Mücadele Kanunu), which has undergone amendments over the years to adapt to evolving security challenges. The Anti-Terror Law is the primary legal instrument that defines terrorism offenses and provides the legal basis for countering terrorism in Türkiye. It was initially enacted in 1991 and has been amended multiple times since then. The law criminalizes various terrorist acts, including acts of violence, bombings, armed attacks, and attempts to disrupt public order and security. The law defines terrorism as acts that aim to change the constitutional order, prevent the functioning of state institutions, or disrupt the unity and integrity of the state. The law designates specific terrorist organizations, such as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C), and the Islamic State (ISIL). Membership, support, or affiliation with these organizations is subject to prosecution. The law prescribes severe penalties for individuals convicted of terrorism-related offenses, including imprisonment and heavy fines. The punishments are more severe for those who lead, organize, or finance terrorist activities.

The Anti-Terror Law grants authorities broad investigative powers to combat terrorism effectively. This includes surveillance, interception of communications, and access to financial and digital records. The law allows the government to freeze the assets of individuals and organizations suspected of involvement in terrorist activities. The law prohibits terrorist propaganda and recruitment efforts to prevent the dissemination of extremist ideologies. The law allows for preventive measures, such as travel bans and house arrest, to restrict the movements and activities of individuals deemed to pose a threat to national security.

The law outlines procedures for investigating and prosecuting terrorism-related offenses, including the establishment of special courts and specialized units to handle terrorism cases. While counter-terrorism legislation is essential for addressing security threats, concerns have been raised about its potential impact

on civil liberties and human rights. Critics argue that the broad definition of terrorism and expansive powers granted to authorities may be misused to suppress dissent and target political opponents. As with any legal framework, the effective and fair application of counter-terrorism legislation depends on adherence to the rule of law, respect for due process, and the protection of individual rights and freedoms.

Counter-Terrorism Policies and Strategies of Pakistan

Pakistan's anti -terrorism policies and strategies have evolved significantly over the decades, modeled by historical developments, internal challenges and international relations. The journey began seriously after the attacks of 11 September, since Pakistan became a first -line state in the global struggle against terrorism. The initial strategies largely revolved around military actions and allied cooperation with the United States, which raised concerns about sovereignty and human rights (Rahman, Sadiq and Shah, 2023).

A fundamental moment in the Pakistani anti -terrorism panorama was the introduction of the National Action Plan (NAP) in 2015, following the horrible attack on the Army public school in Peshawar. This global picture aimed to face the various facets of terrorism, such as religious extremism and militancy, and included measures for better coordination between security agencies (Wahab, 2023). The nap has highlighted the need to fight hatred speeches, strengthen the police and conduct reforms in the criminal justice system. However, despite its ambitious objectives, the effectiveness of the nap remains a topic of debate, since the critical gaps in implementation continue to persist (Baig, 2024).

The current anti -terrorism measures have a multifaceted approach that incorporates both military and civil elements. The establishment of the Department of Contrarism (CTD) and the growing use of operations led by intelligence have improved the operational skills (Sargana, Hussain and Sipra, 2024). However, these measures are often criticized for having potentially violated civil freedoms and human rights, creating a tension between safety needs and individual rights (Hussain & Bhatti, 2024). The effectiveness of these anti -terrorism strategies has been partially evaluated through the assessments of their impact on the general security environment. While there was a remarkable decline of the main terrorist accidents in urban areas, the rebirth of violence in some regions indicates persistent threats. Rahman et al. (2023) They argue that the need for a more holistic approach involving education, community commitment and social justice is essential for long -term safety. In addition, the challenges faced by the anti -terrorism efforts of Pakistan are multifaceted. From the internal fragmentation between the various militant groups to the socio-economic disparities that raise extremism, the issues below complicate the execution of effective policies (ADIL & Khan, 2023). The complexity of the situation is exacerbated by geopolitical dynamics, in particular in relation to India and Afghanistan, where cross -border militancy represents a significant threat to national security (Mehmood & Naeemullah, 2025).

The implications of these anti -terrorism strategies go beyond national borders and international relations. The efforts of Pakistan are carefully observed by the international parties, in particular the United States, which have seen its anti -terrorism cooperation floating on the basis of wider political relations (Baig, Abbas, Sajjad and Zafar, 2024). In addition, the integration of gender prospects in anti -terrorism paintings reflects a growing recognition of the faceted nature of terrorism and the importance of inclusive strategies (Mansab & Iqbal, 2024).

While Pakistan's anti -terrorism policies have undergone a substantial transformation, achieving effectiveness remains a complex challenge full of contradictions and obstacles. The national security panorama indicates that while some progress have been made, a complete approach, based on rights and inclusive that considers the socio-economic context is essential for sustainable peace and security. While Pakistan navigates on this intricate path, the interaction between domestic policies and international relations will continue to model its anti -terrorism landscape (Shah and Javed, 2023).

The country has been targeted by various terrorist organizations and extremist groups with religious ideologies that seek to advance their agendas through violence and intimidation. Pakistan has been affected by the activities of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, both of which have perpetrated numerous terrorist attacks

within the country. These groups have targeted security forces, government institutions, religious minorities, and civilian populations. The TTP is a domestic militant organization that emerged as an offshoot of the Afghan Taliban. It has carried out numerous attacks against the Pakistani state, including suicide bombings, assassinations, and kidnappings. Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is a Pakistan-based terrorist organization with a history of attacking India, but it has also been involved in terrorist activities within Pakistan. The group's ideology is rooted in religious extremism. While not solely religious in nature, the Balochistan insurgency in Pakistan's Balochistan province has some religious elements.

Counter-Terrorism Policies and Strategies of Pakistan:

Aspect	Key Features	Effectiveness / Challenges
Legal Framework	Anti-Terrorism Act (1997), National Action Plan (2014), Terrorism Financing Act, cybercrime and madrassa reforms.	Provides strong legal backing; gaps remain in implementation and judicial effectiveness.
Institutional Mechanisms	National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Counter-Terrorism Departments (CTDs), Pakistan Army.	Improved coordination, but NACTA's role often undermined by bureaucratic overlaps.
Military Strategies	Major operations: Zarb-e-Azb (2014), Radd-ul-Fasaad (2017), targeted actions against TTP, sectarian outfits, and cross-border networks.	Significant decline in terrorist incidents, though groups show resilience and regrouping capacity.
Border Security	Fencing along Afghan border, biometric controls, border management with Iran and India.	Reduces infiltration, but porous terrain and regional instability remain challenges.
Counter-Radicalization	De-radicalization centers, madrassa regulation, media monitoring, curriculum reforms, community reintegration programs.	Positive steps, but uneven implementation and local resistance slow progress.
International Cooperation	Active participation in UN, FATF compliance, intelligence sharing with allies, cooperation under SCO and OIC.	Improved compliance with FATF, but strained U.S. and Afghan relations complicate coordination.
Socio-Economic Measures	Development projects in FATA/KP, Balochistan uplift programs, youth employment schemes.	Addresses root causes, but poverty and governance deficits hinder long-term effectiveness.
Technology & Intelligence	Expanding use of surveillance systems, drones, cyber monitoring, financial intelligence to track networks.	Enhances detection, but capacity constraints and reliance on external tech remain issues.

Table. 04

Separatist groups in the region have engaged in attacks against the Pakistani state, targeting security forces and infrastructure. Pakistan has also faced violence against religious minorities, including Christians, Hindus, and Ahmadiyya Muslims. These communities have been targeted in attacks on places of worship, with some extremist groups seeking to impose their version of religious orthodoxy. Some religious seminaries (madrasas) in Pakistan have been accused of promoting extremist ideologies and contributing to the radicalization of individuals. Pakistan has been affected by the phenomenon of foreign fighters, with militants from various countries traveling to the region to join extremist groups and participate in terrorist activities. The Pakistani government has taken steps to combat religious terrorism and extremist ideologies, including military operations against militant groups, efforts to counter radicalization, and legislative

measures to curb terrorist financing and activities. However, challenges persist due to complex geopolitical factors, porous borders, and deeply entrenched extremist ideologies.(Feyyaz, 2013a)

Non-religious terrorism in Pakistan refers to acts of violence and politically motivated attacks carried out by groups or individuals with ideologies that are not explicitly tied to religious beliefs. While religious extremism has been a significant concern in Pakistan, non-religious terrorism also exists and poses security challenges in the country. Some separatist groups in Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan and Sindh provinces, have pursued non-religious secessionist agendas. These groups seek greater autonomy or independence for their respective regions and have engaged in violent activities, including attacks on security forces and infrastructure. Ethnic tensions have occasionally resulted in violent incidents in Pakistan, particularly between different ethnic groups. While not always tied to specific ideologies, these conflicts can escalate into acts of terrorism and pose threats to public safety and security. Pakistan has experienced incidents of political violence, including attacks on political rallies and leaders. Some of these acts are motivated by political ideologies or disputes.

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have witnessed violence from militant groups with various political motivations. Some of these groups are involved in insurgency and attacks on security forces. Criminal gangs and organized crime networks in Pakistan have engaged in violent activities, including kidnappings for ransom, extortion, and targeted killings. While not driven by political ideologies, their actions can have significant security implications. Non-religious terrorist organizations from other countries or regions have at times been involved in carrying out attacks or operations in Pakistan, adding to the complexity of security challenges. The lines between religious and non-religious terrorism can sometimes blur, and some groups may espouse both political and religious motivations. Additionally, some acts of terrorism in Pakistan may be driven by a combination of factors, including political grievances, ethnic tensions, and religious influences.(Gregg, 2014a)

Extremism and radicalization have been significant challenges in Pakistan, influencing various aspects of society and posing security concerns. The country has faced the impact of both religious and non-religious extremist ideologies, contributing to violence, social divisions, and threats to national security. Pakistan has experienced the rise of religious extremist groups advocating for their particular interpretation of Islam. These groups often seek to impose their ideologies on society, leading to acts of violence against religious minorities and perceived opponents. Religious extremist groups may promote intolerance, discrimination, and the use of violence to achieve their goals. Pakistan has been affected by terrorism and militant activities carried out by various extremist organizations. Some of these groups, like the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), have targeted state institutions, security forces, religious minorities, and civilians, resulting in significant loss of life and damage to property. Some religious seminaries (madrasas) in Pakistan have been accused of promoting extremist ideologies and contributing to the radicalization of individuals.

While the majority of madrasas focus on religious education, a small number have been linked to radicalization and recruitment for extremist groups. Ethnic tensions and separatist movements in regions like Balochistan and Sindh have also contributed to extremism. Some groups advocate for greater autonomy or independence for their regions and resort to violence to achieve their goals. The internet and social media platforms have become significant tools for the spread of extremist ideologies. Online radicalization has become a concern in Pakistan, with extremist groups using these platforms to recruit new members and disseminate propaganda.

Pakistan's geopolitical position and involvement in regional conflicts have exposed it to foreign extremist influences. The Afghan conflict, for example, has had spill-over effects on Pakistan, with the cross-border movement of militants and extremist ideologies. Young people in Pakistan can be particularly vulnerable to extremist ideologies due to factors such as socio-economic disparities, lack of education and job opportunities, and a sense of alienation from mainstream society. (Abbasi, 2013a). The Pakistani government and civil society have taken various measures to address extremism and radicalization. The

government conducts counterterrorism operations to target and disrupt extremist groups and their networks. Efforts are made to rehabilitate and de-radicalize individuals involved in extremist activities, particularly those who have been arrested or surrendered. Initiatives have been undertaken to promote a more moderate and tolerant interpretation of Islam in educational curricula. The government works with internet service providers to monitor and regulate online content promoting extremist ideologies. Engaging with communities and religious leaders to promote tolerance, understanding, and social cohesion is emphasized. Pakistan collaborates with international partners to combat transnational extremist threats and exchange intelligence. While significant efforts have been made to counter extremism and radicalization, challenges persist. Effectively addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that addresses social, economic, and political factors, as well as promoting inclusive and tolerant values in society.

Conflict, crime, and political violence have been significant challenges in Pakistan, impacting the country's stability, security, and socio-political landscape. Pakistan has been grappling with terrorism and militancy for many years. The country has faced attacks by various extremist groups, including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Al-Qaeda, and regional affiliates of the Islamic State (ISIL). These groups have targeted security forces, government institutions, religious minorities, and civilian populations. Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, has witnessed a long-standing insurgency.

Baloch separatist groups have been involved in armed activities, demanding greater autonomy or independence for the province. Pakistan has experienced conflicts and tensions between various ethnic and sectarian groups. These clashes have resulted in violence and contributed to social divisions. The long-standing Kashmir conflict between Pakistan and India has had spillover effects in Pakistan. The disputed region of Kashmir has been a source of tension and conflict in the region. Pakistan has faced challenges from organized criminal groups involved in activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, and extortion.(Khan, 2012a)

Major cities in Pakistan have dealt with street crime, including theft, robberies, and muggings. Like many other countries, Pakistan has confronted cybercrime, including hacking, financial fraud, and online scams. Pakistan has experienced politically motivated attacks, including targeted assassinations and violence during political rallies and events. Extremist and militant groups have engaged in political violence to disrupt the democratic process and challenge the government's authority. Political tensions have at times escalated into protests, demonstrations, and riots, leading to violence and unrest. The Pakistani government has taken measures to address these challenges, including counterterrorism operations, law enforcement efforts, and initiatives to promote socio-economic development and political stability.

Additionally, regional cooperation and international partnerships have played roles in countering transnational threats and addressing conflict-related issues. Despite efforts to address these challenges, they remain complex and multifaceted, requiring ongoing attention and comprehensive strategies that address underlying grievances, promote rule of law, and foster social cohesion. Tackling conflict, crime, and political violence in Pakistan requires a balanced and sustained approach from all sectors of society. Terrorist groups in Pakistan have employed a variety of strategies and tactics to advance their agendas and achieve their objectives. These strategies and tactics often aim to create fear, undermine government authority, and challenge the stability of the country. Suicide bombings have been a prominent tactic used by terrorist groups in Pakistan. Attackers, often strapped with explosives, target crowded places such as markets, mosques, shrines, schools, and military installations, causing mass casualties and instilling fear in the public. Insurgent groups, particularly in conflict-prone areas like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, have employed guerrilla warfare tactics. They carry out ambushes against security forces, engage in hit-and-run attacks, and lay improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on roads and trails.

Terrorist organizations have targeted politicians, religious figures, law enforcement personnel, and military officers through targeted assassinations. These attacks aim to create instability, weaken the government, and deter individuals from cooperating with the state. Some terrorist groups have engaged in kidnapping for ransom or hostage-taking to extort funds, exert pressure on the government, or gain leverage in

negotiations. Religious minority communities, including Christians, Hindus, and Ahmadiyya Muslims, have been targeted in attacks on places of worship and religious gatherings. These attacks aim to create sectarian tensions and incite violence.(Hussain & ABBAS, 2012a)

Terrorist groups have targeted critical infrastructure, such as power plants, gas pipelines, and transportation networks, to disrupt daily life and undermine the economy. Extremist groups use social media platforms to spread propaganda, recruit new members, and radicalize vulnerable individuals. Online platforms have become instrumental in shaping narratives and attracting sympathizers. Some terrorist groups attempt to infiltrate government institutions, security forces, and educational establishments to gather intelligence, recruit sympathizers, or carry out insider attacks.

Terrorism-Related Challenges in Pakistan:

Challenge Area	Key Issues	Impact
Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)	Suicide bombings, attacks on civilians, military, and police since mid-2000s.	Thousands of casualties, destabilization of tribal areas, security sector overstretch.
Sectarian Violence	Attacks by sectarian groups (e.g., Lashkar-e-Jhangvi) targeting Shia, Hazara, and other minorities.	Deepened social polarization, communal tensions, and displacement of communities.
Al-Qaeda & Global Jihadist Influence	Presence of Al-Qaeda leadership and affiliates, especially in tribal areas.	International scrutiny, drone strikes, and global pressure on Pakistan's security policies.
Cross-Border Terrorism	Militants operating across Afghanistan-Pakistan border; sanctuaries on both sides.	Strained relations with Afghanistan, regional instability, and constant border skirmishes.
Urban Terrorism	Major attacks in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, and Peshawar on schools, mosques, and public spaces.	Civilian trauma, economic losses, weakened investor confidence.
Militancy in Balochistan	Insurgent groups conducting sabotage, targeting security forces and infrastructure.	Threat to CPEC projects, regional instability, underdevelopment of province.
Terror Financing & Networks	Informal hawala/hundi systems, charities misused for terror funding.	FATF scrutiny, restrictions on financial system, pressure to reform.
Radicalization & Madrassa Influence	Extremist narratives spread via unregulated madrassas and online platforms.	Youth radicalization, difficulty in countering extremist ideologies.
Balancing Security & Rights	Anti-Terror laws often criticized for harsh measures and military courts.	Human rights concerns, tensions between state security and democratic freedoms.

Table. 05

Terrorist groups operating from neighboring countries have conducted cross-border attacks into Pakistan, exploiting porous borders and challenging national security. Rivalry and infighting between different terrorist groups have also contributed to violence and instability in Pakistan. The Pakistani government and security forces have responded with counterterrorism operations, intelligence-driven efforts, and legislative measures to curb terrorism and enhance national security. International cooperation and regional partnerships have also played a role in addressing transnational terrorist threats. It is crucial to note that terrorist strategies and tactics continue to evolve, necessitating ongoing vigilance and adaptive

counterterrorism measures to effectively address the changing nature of the threat in Pakistan. (Hussain & ABBAS, 2012b).

Pakistan has experienced instances of state repression, civil war, and clandestine warfare in its history. These factors have significantly impacted the country's political, social, and security landscape. State repression refers to the use of excessive force, authoritarian measures, and human rights abuses by the government to suppress dissent, political opposition, and perceived threats to the state. Pakistan has faced periods of state repression during different phases of its history, including military rule and authoritarian regimes. Pakistan has experienced several periods of military rule, during which civil liberties were curtailed, political opposition was suppressed, and human rights abuses occurred. Military governments have used emergency powers and restrictive laws to control dissent and maintain control.

State repression has also been observed through media censorship and restrictions on freedom of expression. Journalists, activists, and individuals critical of the government have faced intimidation and harassment. Pakistan has faced concerns over enforced disappearances, where individuals are detained by state agencies without due process, and their whereabouts remain undisclosed. The province of Balochistan has witnessed a long-standing insurgency by Baloch separatist groups seeking greater autonomy or independence. The conflict has involved armed attacks, sabotage, and clashes with security forces.(Feyyaz, 2013b)

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has experienced an insurgency by the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant groups. The conflict has resulted in attacks on civilians, security forces, and infrastructure. The city of Karachi has faced episodes of political and ethnic violence, including clashes between rival political groups and criminal gangs. Clandestine warfare refers to covert operations and unconventional tactics employed by state and non-state actors in pursuit of strategic objectives. Pakistan has been involved in conflicts in neighboring Afghanistan and India, where clandestine warfare and support to proxy groups have been alleged.

Pakistan's intelligence agencies have been involved in covert activities, including gathering intelligence, counterintelligence, and clandestine support to insurgent groups. Pakistan has been accused of supporting and using terrorist groups as proxies to further its strategic interests in neighboring regions. These issues are complex and multifaceted, with various historical, political, and social factors at play. Addressing state repression, civil war, and clandestine warfare in Pakistan requires promoting democracy, strengthening rule of law, protecting human rights, and addressing underlying grievances through dialogue and inclusive policies. Efforts to foster peace and stability also involve regional cooperation, transparency, and constructive engagement with civil society to build a more resilient and democratic Pakistan. (Khan, 2012b)

Pakistan has implemented several counter-terrorism laws and regulations to combat terrorism and address security threats in the country. These laws provide the legal framework for law enforcement and intelligence agencies to investigate, prosecute, and prevent terrorist activities. Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 1997 is the primary legislation that defines terrorism offenses and provides the legal basis for counter-terrorism measures in Pakistan.

The law was enacted in 1997 and has undergone amendments to adapt to changing security challenges. Protection of Pakistan Act (PPA) of 2014 was introduced in 2014 to grant law enforcement agencies expanded powers to combat terrorism and security threats. The law allows for preventive detention and the establishment of special courts for speedy trials of terrorism-related cases. The Anti-Terrorism Act was amended in 2014 to include provisions for the establishment of military courts to try terrorism cases. The move aimed to expedite the prosecution of terrorists and ensure swift justice. National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) Act of 2013 established the National Counter Terrorism Authority, an organization responsible for coordinating and implementing counter-terrorism efforts at the national level. NACTA serves as the central hub for intelligence analysis and policy formulation.(Gregg, 2014b)

Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) is used to track and monitor financial transactions to prevent terrorist financing and money laundering. National Action Plan (NAP), while not a specific law, the National Action Plan was a comprehensive policy framework introduced in 2015 to address terrorism and extremism in Pakistan. NAP involved a wide range of measures, including legal reforms, intelligence sharing, and counter-terrorism operations. Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) of 2016 was introduced to address cybercrimes and online radicalization.

The law allows authorities to take action against individuals involved in online extremist activities and propaganda. Counter-terrorism laws must strike a balance between providing necessary tools to combat terrorism and safeguarding civil liberties and human rights. Critics have raised concerns about the potential misuse of these laws to suppress dissent and target political opponents. Ensuring proper implementation, transparency, and respect for due process are essential to maintaining the rule of law while effectively countering terrorism in Pakistan. As with any legal framework, counter-terrorism legislation in Pakistan is subject to change and amendments based on evolving security dynamics and national priorities. (SHAH, 2016)

Pakistan has established various specialized counter-terrorism forces and agencies to effectively address the threat of terrorism and ensure national security. These forces and agencies work collaboratively to gather intelligence, conduct operations, and prevent terrorist activities. Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) is a specialized unit within the provincial police departments. It is tasked with countering terrorism and responding to terrorist incidents at the provincial level.

Special Security Unit (SSU) is a specialized force responsible for providing security to sensitive installations, including foreign missions and government buildings. It is equipped to respond to terrorist threats and emergencies. Pakistan Rangers is a paramilitary force deployed in various regions of Pakistan, primarily in Sindh and Punjab provinces. While their primary role is to maintain law and order, they also assist in counter-terrorism operations. The Frontier Corps operates in the tribal areas and border regions of Pakistan. It plays a vital role in combating terrorism and insurgency in these areas. Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) is a specialized law enforcement agency responsible for combating terrorism at the provincial level. It conducts intelligence-based operations and investigations related to terrorism and extremist activities. Pakistan has multiple intelligence agencies, including the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Intelligence Bureau (IB), and Military Intelligence (MI).(Abbasi, 2013b)

These agencies play a crucial role in gathering intelligence on terrorist groups, their activities, and external threats. National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) serves as the central coordination body for counter-terrorism efforts in Pakistan. It analyzes intelligence, formulates counter-terrorism strategies, and coordinates activities among various agencies. Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force (PAF) are integral parts of the country's counter-terrorism efforts. They conduct military operations against terrorist groups and provide support to civil law enforcement agencies when required. Special Services Group (SSG) is an elite unit of the Pakistan Army that is highly trained for special operations, including counter-terrorism and hostage rescue.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) is primarily responsible for federal crimes, the FIA also plays a role in countering cybercrime and investigating terrorism-related cases. These counter-terrorism forces and agencies work in close coordination with each other to address terrorist threats and challenges. Additionally, Pakistan collaborates with international partners in intelligence sharing and counter-terrorism efforts to combat transnational terrorist threats effectively. The country's counter-terrorism efforts require ongoing vigilance, adaptability, and cooperation among various stakeholders to counter the evolving nature of terrorism.(Hashmi, 2009)

It is not easy access to classified or confidential information, including specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) used by the Pakistani government or its security agencies. SOPs related to counter-terrorism are typically classified and not publicly available. These SOPs may vary depending on the

specific agency, jurisdiction, and nature of the threat. Procedures for collecting and analyzing intelligence related to potential terrorist threats, including information from human sources, technical surveillance, and open-source intelligence. Guidelines for assessing the credibility and seriousness of specific threats and determining the appropriate response level. Procedures for responding to terrorist incidents, including active shooter situations, bombings, and hostage situations. Protocols for coordinating with other law enforcement agencies, military units, and emergency responders during counter-terrorism operations. SOPs for implementing security measures at critical infrastructure, public places, and high-profile events to prevent terrorist attacks.(Zahid, 2018)

Procedures for conducting surveillance and monitoring of individuals or groups suspected of terrorist activities. Guidelines for enhancing border security to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and the movement of weapons and explosives. SOPs for countering cyber threats and online radicalization efforts by terrorist groups. Protocols for investigating terrorism-related cases, handling evidence, and preserving the chain of custody. Guidelines for training law enforcement personnel in counter-terrorism tactics, response procedures, and crisis management. SOPs for raising public awareness about terrorist threats and educating citizens on reporting suspicious activities. It's essential to understand that counter-terrorism SOPs are highly sensitive and subject to regular updates based on emerging threats and lessons learned from past incidents. These SOPs are closely guarded by the relevant agencies to ensure the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures and the safety of the public.

Counter-terrorism operations in Pakistan are aimed at countering terrorist activities, neutralizing extremist threats, and maintaining national security. Over the years, Pakistan has conducted various military, law enforcement, and intelligence-led operations to combat terrorism. Operation Zarb-e-Azb (2014), One of the most significant military operations in Pakistan, Zarb-e-Azb targeted terrorist groups in North Waziristan, a region known for harboring militant networks.

The operation involved large-scale military offensives to dismantle terrorist hideouts and disrupt their networks. Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad (2017) was launched as a follow-up to Zarb-e-Azb, Radd-ul-Fasaad aimed to eliminate residual terrorist threats across Pakistan. The operation involved targeted raids, intelligence-based operations, and counter-insurgency efforts in urban and rural areas. Operation Khyber IV (2017) focused on clearing terrorist sanctuaries in the Rajgal Valley of Khyber Agency. It aimed to disrupt cross-border movements of terrorists between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Operation Khyber II (2014) military operation targeted the Tirah Valley of Khyber Agency, a stronghold of various militant groups. The goal was to dismantle their infrastructure and disrupt their operations.(Mahmood, 2015)

Operation Rah-e-Haq (2007) Launched in Swat Valley, this operation aimed to root out the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant groups. The operation helped restore government control in the region. Operation Clean-up (1992) Conducted in Karachi, this law enforcement operation targeted criminal gangs and extremist elements. It aimed to restore law and order in the city. Intelligence-led Operations by Pakistan's intelligence agencies, including the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), conduct numerous intelligence-led operations to disrupt terrorist plots, identify and neutralize terrorist cells, and gather actionable intelligence. Targeted Killings and Drone Strikes in coordination with the United States, drone strikes have been used to target high-profile terrorist leaders operating within Pakistan's borders.

These operations have involved coordination among various security forces, intelligence agencies, and law enforcement entities. The goal has been to dismantle terrorist networks, eliminate safe havens, apprehend or neutralize key terrorist leaders, and prevent the recurrence of terrorist attacks. It is important to note that counter-terrorism operations in Pakistan are complex and face challenges due to the country's geopolitical position, porous borders, and presence of various terrorist groups. The success of these operations depends on intelligence sharing, interagency cooperation, and sustained efforts to address the root causes of extremism and radicalization.(Lukas, 2018)

Risk and threat assessment in Pakistan is a critical process conducted by various government agencies, intelligence organizations, and security experts to identify and analyze potential security risks and threats to the country's stability, safety, and national security. The assessment process involves gathering information, analyzing data, and evaluating factors that could pose risks or threats to different sectors and regions within Pakistan. Assessing the risk of terrorism and insurgency is a primary focus of threat assessment in Pakistan. This involves monitoring the activities of various terrorist organizations, their capabilities, intentions, and potential targets.

Identifying terrorist cells and networks, as well as their external and internal linkages, is crucial in evaluating the level of threat they pose. Due to its geopolitical location, Pakistan faces challenges related to border security and the intersection of gender-based violence with broader challenges of extremism and terrorism in society (Abbas et al., 2022). Assessing the risks of cross-border terrorism, smuggling of weapons and contraband, and illegal movements of individuals is essential to protect national sovereignty and security. Assessing internal security risks involves examining inter-ethnic, inter-sectarian, and communal tensions that could lead to violence or social unrest. Monitoring public sentiment and potential triggers for civil disturbances is crucial in preventing the escalation of conflicts. Threat assessment in Pakistan also includes evaluating cyber risks and potential cyber threats posed by hostile state actors, cybercriminals, and hacktivists. This includes assessing vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, government systems, and private networks.(Cordesman, 2017)

Assessing the country's vulnerability to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts, is also part of the risk assessment process. This helps in preparedness planning and mitigating the impact of such disasters. Evaluating the risks to political stability, governance, and economic growth is crucial in understanding potential threats to the country's overall development and security. Analyzing the risk of extremism and radicalization within different segments of society is essential in designing appropriate preventive measures and intervention strategies. Assessing the geopolitical risks and external threats posed by neighboring countries or international actors is crucial in understanding Pakistan's security environment and foreign policy considerations. In Pakistan, the judicial enforcement of international human rights standards remains a critical challenge in counter-terrorism efforts, as courts must balance constitutional guarantees with global human rights obligations (Abbas et al., 2022).

Evaluating the vulnerabilities and risks to critical infrastructure, such as energy facilities, transportation networks, and communication systems, helps in developing strategies to safeguard these assets from potential attacks. In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, assessing health and biological threats is also critical to public health preparedness. Comprehensive risk and threat assessment in Pakistan involves information sharing, coordination between different government agencies and intelligence organizations, and engaging with regional and international partners for intelligence cooperation. Regular updating and refining of assessments based on emerging trends and developments are essential to stay ahead of potential threats and enhance national security measures.(Noor, 2012)

Pakistan has been actively engaged in cyber operations to address various security challenges and leverage technology for its national interests. Cyber operations in Pakistan encompass a range of activities, including defensive measures to safeguard its critical infrastructure and networks, intelligence gathering, and responses to cyber threats. Pakistan has established cybersecurity agencies and institutions responsible for defending its networks and critical infrastructure against cyber threats. These agencies work to protect government systems, financial institutions, and other key sectors from cyberattacks, data breaches, and information theft. The contested nature of citizenship laws in Pakistan and India has also fueled grievances that intersect with terrorism, identity politics, and regional security concerns (Rashid, 2023).

Pakistan's intelligence agencies, including the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), engage in cyber intelligence and surveillance operations to gather information on potential threats and adversaries. These operations involve monitoring online activities, tracking communications, and conducting cyber espionage. Pakistan has cybercrime laws, such as the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) of 2016, to address

cyber offenses. Law enforcement agencies are actively involved in investigating and prosecuting cybercriminals engaged in activities such as hacking, cyber fraud, and online extremism.(Group, 2015a)

Pakistani authorities conduct cyber operations to counter online extremism and radicalization. Efforts include monitoring and taking down extremist content and propaganda disseminated on social media and other online platforms. Cyber operations are also directed at protecting critical infrastructure, including energy, transportation, and communication systems, from cyber threats and potential attacks that could disrupt essential services. Pakistan's military has been enhancing its capabilities in cyberspace for defense and deterrence.

Military cyber operations may include offensive measures to disrupt or neutralize adversary networks in the event of a cyber conflict. National Cyber Coordination Center (NCCC) was established in Pakistan, serves as the central hub for coordinating and monitoring cyber activities across various sectors to enhance national cybersecurity. Cyber operations are not unique to Pakistan and are part of modern statecraft and national security strategies employed by many countries. The aim is to leverage the potential of cyberspace for national interests while also countering cyber threats and ensuring the security of critical information and infrastructure.(Group, 2013).

As cyberspace is continuously evolving, the effectiveness of Pakistan's cyber operations depends on keeping pace with emerging threats, international best practices, and ongoing technological advancements. The country collaborates with other nations and participates in international efforts to strengthen cybersecurity and combat cybercrime on a global scale. Intelligence operations in Pakistan are conducted by various government agencies to gather, analyze, and interpret information that is crucial for national security and decision-making. The intelligence community in Pakistan consists of several organizations, each with specific roles and responsibilities. The ISI is Pakistan's premier intelligence agency and plays a significant role in gathering foreign intelligence. It is responsible for collecting information related to external threats, monitoring activities of foreign countries, and providing assessments to the government. The Intelligence Bureau is Pakistan's internal intelligence agency, responsible for domestic intelligence collection. It focuses on issues related to internal security, counter-terrorism, and monitoring subversive activities within the country.(Group, 2015b)

The Military Intelligence operates under the Pakistan Army and is responsible for gathering military-related intelligence, monitoring activities along the borders, and assessing threats to national security. The Naval Intelligence is responsible for gathering intelligence related to maritime security, coastal areas, and naval operations. The Air Intelligence is involved in intelligence collection related to the Pakistan Air Force, monitoring airspace and aviation security. Various intelligence agencies in Pakistan collaborate and share information through joint intelligence forums, such as the Joint Intelligence Directorate (JID). These platforms facilitate coordination and analysis of intelligence from different sources. Intelligence operations in Pakistan involve a range of activities, including human intelligence (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), open-source intelligence (OSINT), and cyber intelligence (CYBINT).(Afzal, 2015)

The intelligence agencies work to identify potential threats, monitor terrorist activities, track extremist networks, and gather information on foreign adversaries. Intelligence agencies actively work to counter terrorist activities and disrupt the operations of extremist groups operating within Pakistan's borders. Monitoring and analyzing security developments in neighboring countries, particularly Afghanistan and India, is crucial due to geopolitical complexities and regional tensions.

With the growing significance of cyberspace, intelligence agencies in Pakistan also engage in cyber intelligence to track cyber threats, cyber espionage, and online radicalization. Counterintelligence efforts aim to detect and prevent foreign intelligence services' attempts to gather classified or sensitive information from within Pakistan. Intelligence agencies provide assessments and analysis on regional and international developments that could impact Pakistan's security and foreign policy. Intelligence operations are governed by strict protocols and are subject to oversight to ensure compliance with the law and

protection of individual rights. Effective intelligence operations are vital in safeguarding national security and enabling informed decision-making at the highest levels of government.(Nawaz, 2016)

Pakistan has implemented various counter-terrorism strategies and policies to address the threat of terrorism and extremist activities within its borders. Over the years, the country has faced significant security challenges, and its approach to counter-terrorism has evolved to adapt to changing threats. The National Action Plan was launched in January 2015 in response to the deadly terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar. NAP is a comprehensive policy framework that aims to counter terrorism, extremism, and sectarian violence in Pakistan.

It includes various measures, such as military operations, legal reforms, countering hate speech and extremist ideologies, and addressing funding sources for terrorist groups. Pakistan has conducted several large-scale military operations in areas affected by terrorism, including Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad. These operations focused on eliminating terrorist safe havens, dismantling terrorist networks, and restoring government control in conflict-affected regions. (Latif & Khan, 2011) Indo-Pak public diplomacy, particularly under the BJP governments of Vajpayee and Modi, has often been overshadowed by recurring terrorist incidents that hinder sustainable peace efforts. (Bilal, 2022).

Enhancing intelligence-sharing and coordination among different intelligence agencies is a crucial aspect of Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy. This includes cooperation between military intelligence, civilian intelligence agencies, and provincial law enforcement agencies. Pakistan has introduced specific counter-terrorism legislation, such as the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), to provide a legal framework for prosecuting terrorists and addressing cybercrime and online extremism. Efforts to engage local communities and religious leaders in countering extremism and radicalization have been emphasized. De-radicalization and rehabilitation programs are also in place to reintegrate individuals who have renounced extremist ideologies. Strengthening border security is a priority to prevent cross-border movement of terrorists and smuggling of weapons and explosives. Pakistan has taken steps to track and freeze the assets of individuals and entities involved in financing terrorism.

Reforms have been initiated to revise educational curricula to promote tolerance, inclusivity, and moderate interpretations of Islam, with the aim of countering extremist ideologies. Pakistan collaborates with international partners, including the United States, China, and regional organizations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), to combat terrorism and share intelligence. Counter-terrorism strategies in Pakistan are constantly evolving, given the dynamic nature of the threat landscape. While progress has been made in some areas, challenges remain, including the presence of terrorist safe havens, cross-border threats, and efforts to prevent radicalization and online extremism. Effective implementation, coordination, and a multi-dimensional approach involving military, law enforcement, intelligence agencies, and civil society are essential to address these challenges and promote lasting peace and stability in Pakistan.(Basit, 2012)

CONCLUSION

Counter-terrorism legislation in Türkiye and Pakistan is aimed at providing a legal framework to combat terrorism effectively. While both countries have enacted specific laws to address the threat of terrorism, there are notable differences in their legislative approaches. Here is a comparison of counter-terrorism policies and legislation in Türkiye and Pakistan:

Türkiye

Anti-Terrorism Law (ATL): Türkiye's primary counter-terrorism legislation is the Anti-Terrorism Law, which was enacted in 1991. The ATL defines terrorism-related offenses, including acts of violence, separatism, and membership in terrorist organizations. It also empowers the government to take strict actions against terrorist activities and suspects.

Counter-Terrorism Courts: Türkiye has specialized counter-terrorism courts to handle cases related to terrorism. These courts are responsible for trying individuals accused of terrorist activities or supporting terrorist organizations.

Restrictions on Freedom of Expression: Critics argue that the ATL has been used to stifle freedom of expression and target journalists, activists, and political opponents, as it allows for the prosecution of individuals for expressing views deemed sympathetic to terrorist organizations.

State of Emergency (2016-2018): Following the failed coup attempt in 2016, Türkiye declared a state of emergency, granting broader powers to the government to crack down on suspected terrorists and curb civil liberties.

Pakistan

Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA): Pakistan's primary counter-terrorism legislation is the Anti-Terrorism Act, which was enacted in 1997 and subsequently amended to strengthen counter-terrorism measures. The ATA defines terrorism offenses, including attacks on law enforcement personnel, sabotage, and bombings.

Military Courts (Amendment to ATA): In response to increasing terrorist attacks, Pakistan amended the ATA in 2015 to establish military courts for the swift trial of terrorism-related cases. These military courts were empowered to conduct trials and issue verdicts, but the use of military courts for civilian cases faced criticism for issues related to due process and transparency.

National Action Plan (NAP): The NAP was introduced in 2015 as a comprehensive policy framework to combat terrorism, extremism, and sectarian violence. It includes measures for military operations, legal reforms, countering hate speech, and addressing terrorist financing.

Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA): In 2016, Pakistan introduced the PECA to address cybercrimes, including cyberterrorism and online radicalization.

Comparative Analysis

Legal Framework: Both countries have specific counter-terrorism laws (ATL in Türkiye, ATA in Pakistan) that define terrorism-related offenses and provide the basis for prosecution.

Specialized Courts: Both countries have specialized courts to handle terrorism cases (counter-terrorism courts in Türkiye, military courts in Pakistan).

Human Rights Concerns: Türkiye has faced criticism for its counter-terrorism measures leading to restrictions on freedom of expression and civil liberties. Pakistan has faced similar concerns regarding military courts' transparency and human rights issues.

Comprehensive Policy Framework: Both countries have introduced comprehensive policy frameworks to address terrorism (NAP in Pakistan), including military operations, legal reforms, and de-radicalization efforts.

Cyber Legislation: Both countries have addressed cyberterrorism and online extremism through specific legislation (PECA in Pakistan).

Türkiye and Pakistan have implemented counter-terrorism legislation to address the threat of terrorism and maintain national security. While there are similarities in their legal frameworks and policy approaches, both countries have faced criticism and challenges regarding human rights concerns and transparency in their counter-terrorism efforts. An effective and balanced counter-terrorism approach requires a careful consideration of civil liberties, adherence to due process, and addressing underlying grievances that contribute to radicalization and extremism. Counter-terrorism policies are critical components of a country's security framework, aimed at mitigating the threat of terrorism and ensuring the safety and stability of its citizens. Türkiye and Pakistan, both strategically located countries in their respective regions, have been confronted with significant terrorism challenges over the years. This essay provides a comparative analysis of their counter-terrorism policies, examining similarities, differences, strengths, weaknesses, and the effectiveness of their approaches.

Both Türkiye and Pakistan have faced terrorism threats with unique historical contexts and nature. Türkiye has dealt with terrorism from Kurdish separatist groups like the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and, more recently, the Islamic State (ISIL) and other Islamist-inspired organizations. Pakistan, on the other hand, has confronted various militant groups, including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), sectarian organizations, and external threats along its border with Afghanistan. Both countries have enacted specific counter-terrorism legislation to combat terrorism effectively.

Türkiye's Anti-Terrorism Law (ATL) empowers the government to take strict actions against terrorist activities. Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) provides a legal basis for prosecuting terrorists and freezing assets. Both laws emphasize intelligence-driven operations and allow for preventive detention and special courts for speedy trials of terrorism-related cases. Türkiye and Pakistan have employed large-scale military operations to tackle terrorism. Türkiye conducted operations against the PKK in the southeast and launched incursions into Syria to target ISIL. Pakistan's military has undertaken significant campaigns, including Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad, to clear terrorist sanctuaries and disrupt their networks.

Both countries place a strong emphasis on intelligence gathering and coordination among various intelligence agencies. Türkiye's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) play critical roles in gathering and analyzing intelligence related to terrorism threats. Both countries recognize the importance of counter-radicalization and de-radicalization programs. Türkiye's programs focus on rehabilitation and social integration of former terrorists. Pakistan has initiated various initiatives, including educational reforms to promote tolerance and counter extremist ideologies.

Both Türkiye and Pakistan engage in regional and international cooperation to combat terrorism. Türkiye collaborates with European countries and the United States in intelligence sharing and joint operations. Pakistan works closely with regional organizations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and international partners, including the United States and China.

Both countries face challenges in implementing their counter-terrorism policies. Türkiye has faced criticism for restricting civil liberties and media freedom under the pretext of counter-terrorism. In Pakistan, concerns have been raised regarding the effectiveness of counter-terrorism operations and the potential misuse of anti-terrorism laws to target political opponents. Türkiye and Pakistan have implemented comprehensive counter-terrorism policies to address the unique challenges posed by terrorism in their respective regions. While both countries have made significant strides in countering terrorism, there remain areas for improvement, such as safeguarding civil liberties, enhancing intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and addressing underlying grievances that contribute to radicalization.

Layer	Türkiye	Pakistan
Legislation	• Anti-Terror Law (1991, amended) • Criminal Code (EU/NATO aligned) • Broad definitions, civil liberties concerns	• Anti-Terrorism Act (1997) • National Action Plan (2014) • FATF-driven financial regulations
Policies	• Military ops: Cross-border strikes in Syria/Iraq • Security: Border fencing, drones, surveillance • Counter-radicalization: Diyanet oversight, education reforms • Development: Southeast Anatolia projects	• Military ops: Zarb-e-Azb, Radd-ul-Fasaad • Security: Afghan border fencing, CTDs, Rangers • Counter-radicalization: Madrassa reforms, de-radicalization centers • Development: FATA/KP integration, Balochistan uplift
Strategic Response	• International cooperation: NATO, EU, UN	• International cooperation: UN, SCO, OIC, FATF compliance

• Advanced tech: AI, drones, cyber monitoring • Effective suppression, but rights criticisms	• Expanding tech & intelligence, still developing • Significant reduction post-2014, but TTP resurgence

Table. 06

A successful counter-terrorism approach requires a balance between security measures, respect for human rights, and addressing the root causes of terrorism. Continued cooperation, regional engagement, and international support are vital for sustainable success in combating terrorism in both Türkiye and Pakistan.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendations for improving counter-terrorism policies and laws in Türkiye and Pakistan should focus on striking a balance between effective security measures and safeguarding human rights. Additionally, addressing the root causes of terrorism, promoting inclusivity, and enhancing international cooperation are vital for long-term success. Here are some key recommendations for both countries:

Türkiye

Respect for Human Rights: Ensure that counter-terrorism measures and laws are in line with international human rights standards. Avoid using counter-terrorism laws to suppress freedom of expression, dissent, and political opposition.

Judicial Oversight: Strengthen judicial oversight in counter-terrorism cases to ensure fair and transparent trials. Review and reform the use of special courts and emergency measures to safeguard due process.

Community Engagement: Foster community engagement and collaboration with civil society organizations to counter radicalization and extremist narratives at the grassroots level.

Address Kurdish Grievances: Address underlying Kurdish grievances through peaceful dialogue and political reforms to address the root causes of terrorism related to the Kurdish issue.

Intelligence Coordination: Enhance intelligence-sharing and coordination among different agencies to improve the effectiveness of counter-terrorism operations and prevent intelligence gaps.

Pakistan

Rule of Law: Ensure strict adherence to the rule of law and due process in counter-terrorism operations and trials. Review and assess the impact of military courts on human rights and consider alternative mechanisms for swift justice.

Effective Border Management: Strengthen border management and intelligence-sharing with neighboring countries, particularly Afghanistan, to prevent cross-border movement of terrorists and disrupt their networks.

Countering Sectarianism: Develop targeted strategies to counter sectarian violence and extremist ideologies that fuel religious divisions and contribute to terrorism.

De-radicalization Programs: Invest in comprehensive and effective de-radicalization programs that promote tolerance, pluralism, and inclusivity. Support the rehabilitation and reintegration of former extremists into society.

Financial Monitoring: Strengthen financial monitoring mechanisms to track and freeze the assets of individuals and entities involved in financing terrorism.

Cybersecurity: Enhance cybersecurity measures to prevent cyberterrorism and combat online radicalization.

JOINT RECOMMENDATION

International Cooperation: Both countries should enhance regional and international cooperation in intelligence-sharing, training, and capacity-building to combat transnational terrorist threats effectively.

Preventive Measures: Focus on preventive measures such as countering hate speech, promoting religious tolerance, and enhancing educational curricula to prevent radicalization.

Address Socio-Economic Issues: Address socio-economic disparities and grievances that contribute to feelings of marginalization and support for extremist ideologies.

Inclusive Governance: Foster inclusive governance and political participation to ensure that all segments of society have a stake in the country's development and security.

Evaluation and Monitoring: Regularly evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of counter-terrorism policies and laws to identify areas for improvement and adjust strategies accordingly.

By implementing these recommendations, Türkiye and Pakistan can strengthen their counter-terrorism efforts, address the root causes of terrorism, and protect the rights and safety of their citizens while effectively countering extremist threats.

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