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Foreword

Welcome to the twelfth edition of the Paradigm Shift e-magazine. Since starting Paradigm Shift (www.ParadigmShift.com.pk) on **August 14th, 2020**, we have come a long way.

With around **200,000 monthly visits**, and over **60,000 followers** on social media, we are now able to serve a wider percentage of the Pakistani youth. All our pieces are sent in by brilliant writers and researchers, and our gifted editors constantly ensure the quality of our content.

We aim for, and work towards three major goals:

1. To become a comprehensive library with high-quality content on **international relations, current affairs, global politics, and Pakistan**.
2. To provide a **free medium** where individuals can access research from across the globe - and can send in their own work to share their voice with the world.
3. To **showcase Pakistan** in a **positive and factual manner** through our 'Pakistan Unveiled' section.

We have handpicked **12 special pieces** from our website for this edition, and we hope that you gain some insights from them. For more content on a variety of topics from across the world, please visit www.ParadigmShift.com.pk

We hope that you consider sharing our website and social media with your friends and family so that we can effectively increase our reach. Thank you again for all your support through the years.

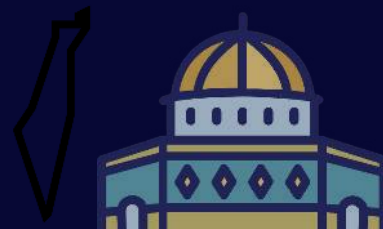
Israel's Strategic Depth: History & The 2023 Gaza War

About the Author



Sarmad Ishfaq is an independent researcher and writer whose work has been published by Harvard Kennedy School Review, the Diplomat, Open Democracy, Paradigm Shift, Mondoweiss, and Eurasia Review to name a few.

He has also been published by several international peer-reviewed journals such as Taylor and Francis' Social Identities. Before becoming an independent writer, he worked as a research fellow for the LCPR. He has a master's degree in IR from the UoWD where he was recognized as the 'Top Graduate'.



Strategic Depth Explained

Strategic depth is a military doctrine that refers to the distances between the front lines and the belligerents' capital cities, industrial zones, centers of population, etcetera. In simple terms, the greater the distance between an enemy threat and what needs to be protected, the greater the strategic depth.

Israel's Need for Strategic Depth



Israel is a small country and is ranked 46th in the world in terms of land area. Since Israel's creation in 1948 at the tragic expense of the Palestinians, the state has been worried about its lack of strategic depth as well as its antagonistic Arab neighbors. Its internationally recognized borders leave it just 137 km across its

widest and 14 km at its narrowest points. Moreover, Israel's population is small, and it relies on reservists as their on-ground combatants, juxtaposed to Arab countries and their historically large standing armies.

To make things worse, Israel's "population, industry, and military infrastructure are heavily **concentrated and within easy reach** from the borders." Due to such confines, the country fashioned an offensive/pre-emptive approach to warfare in contrast to adopting a more defensive "attack when attacked" posture. It was the country's first prime minister, Ben-Gurion, who supported this security policy of "shifting combat onto enemy soil...given Israel's **lack of strategic depth**."

Israel also participated in what can be called “artificial strategic depth,” where its settlements, among other things, were fortified. It also aims to win wars as soon as possible due to such strategic limitations. Therefore, the country uses nuclear deterrence and advanced firepower to discourage attacks from neighboring Arab states and attack “pre-emptively should [deterrence seem to be eroding](#).”

Former PM Yitzhak Rabin stated this policy as, “The basic philosophy of Israel was not to initiate war unless an active war was carried out against us. We then lived within the lines prior to the Six-day War, lines that gave no depth to Israel—and therefore, Israel was in a need, whenever there would be a war, to go immediately on the offensive—to carry the war to the enemy’s land.”



Things took a histrionic turn after the Six-day War in 1967. The war between Israel and a primary coalition of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia was a decisive victory for the state. Israel anticipated a planned Egyptian invasion and preemptively struck and destroyed nearly all of Egypt’s military aerial assets as well as Syria’s, thus allowing the state to enjoy air superiority and finish the

war in a mere six days, much to the chagrin of the Arabs. In the aftermath, Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, and Golan Heights. Out of these territories, only the Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt later, while the others remain occupied today.

These areas afforded the state a degree of strategic depth. The reasoning is that the occupied territories (OT) can be used as a buffer zone to absorb an attack, similar to how the British used the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in British India to shield itself from Afghan or Russian ingress. Israeli security analysts were now of the opinion that, due to the OT, Israel could pursue a more defensive approach as it could now survive a first strike due to its augmented strategic depth.

This thinking was found moderately correct in the October 1973 war when Syria and Egypt entered their territories (occupied by Israel) of Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula, respectively. Israel absorbed the initial attack and inroads made by Syria and Egypt; it was then able to successfully mount a counteroffensive, which led to another Israeli victory. However, not everyone agreed with this new defensive posture, including Ariel Sharon. When Sharon took charge as minister of defense, he advocated that Israel revert to its pre-1967 offensive position.

He pushed for this as he saw the strategic depth/insulation of the OT being neutralized by the Arab armies' increased mechanization, augmented mobility, and acquisition of long-range weapons. After the [1982 invasion of Lebanon](#) for which Sharon was significantly responsible, the offensive stance waned in popularity. However, this offensive stance regained traction by 1988 with Iraq's use of surface-to-surface missiles (SSM) and Saudi Arabia's purchase of long-range SSMs from China.

While Israel today might be in a relatively safer environment since its independence, with some Arab states teetering and others placated, the threats to its existence are still palpable, as evidenced by the current war (detailed ahead). Non-state actors such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah are enemies of the state and are the de facto fighting force of the oppressed Palestinians. While Hamas and Islamic Jihad do not have any kind of tanks, aircraft, or large standing armies to invade Israel effectively, their ability to launch countless rockets into Israel means that strategic depth is limited for the state.



Due to this, Israel has invaded Gaza multiple times and has pursued ignominious military operations to squash Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Besides pre-emption and swift action, Israel uses the “deliberate use of disproportionate [violence against civilians](#)” as a “core part” of its military doctrine. Statistical evidence indicates that since the Gaza War (2008–09) up until the

May 2021 conflict, [18,992 Palestinians](#) (civilians plus combatants) have died compared to 1,563 Israeli civilians and combatants; this means that a staggering 92.39% of casualties have been Palestinian.

Maritime Strategic Depth

Israel is acutely cognizant that there are two kinds of strategic depths: internal and external. The external kind lies beyond a country’s borders—in this case, the sea. “The strategic depth that the Mediterranean [offers will play an increasingly](#) important role in Israel’s defense.” Therefore, the state has been intensifying its maritime strategic depth. An example of maritime strategic depth is the Revolutionary War when the British were constrained due to it having to cross the Atlantic to attack the US.

In the last few years, significant offshore hydrocarbon reserves have been discovered in Israel’s territorial waters. Its gas reserves have grown by over [40% in the past decade](#). The Tamar, Leviathan, and Katlan fields are some examples. Due to this, there has been a need to produce a more cogent naval force. These sea-based economic assets are contingent on Israel’s naval prowess, as are the diplomatic avenues that such assets open – i.e. these assets can mollify Israel’s neighbors through commercial activity.

Israel has been working closely with Greece and Cyprus as well as the US naval fleet in conducting joint naval exercises. Most importantly, Israel’s new Dolphin-IIIs (the INS Dragon) are said to be capable of [carrying nuclear missiles](#) bolstering its second-strike capabilities if attacked by an enemy’s nuclear weapons.

This has been on the Israeli agenda for a while, and achieving this has allowed the country to further its strategic depth.

Political Strategic Depth

While strategic depth is primarily a military idea, it has political and economic practicalities as well. The aftermath of the 1973 war is a good example of this. It paved the way for the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty, in which the Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt. While this might sound counterproductive, it was a judicious ploy, as it allowed Israel to befriend an anathematic and robust military power in Egypt. This assurance of peace has allowed Israel more strategic depth than the Sinai since it set a precedent for others that rapprochement with Israel can be considered.

This is exactly what happened as Jordan (in 1994) entered into a peace treaty with Israel and other nations began re-examining their antagonism as well. This eventually led to even more rapprochement under the Abraham Accords as Arab and Muslim states such as the UAE, Sudan, Bahrain, and Morocco started diplomatic relations with [Israel during the Trump](#) presidency. The economic partnerships, trade, military cooperation, sharing of intel, tourism, etcetera that transpire after peace is established make going to war much more costly and onerous. For example, Egypt and Israel have been cordial for the most part since their treaty.

Pan-Arabism has also died down, and economic interests have unfortunately taken priority away from the Palestinian issue. Many GCC countries, such as the UAE, are examples of this, as they continually diversify their economies and see Israel as a key partner. Conversely, Iraq, Libya, and Syria are a shell of their former selves. Lebanon too has economically collapsed, and this will take a toll on Hezbollah, Israel's archnemesis. Only Iran is considered a major threat—and often Pakistan.

The biggest illustration of Israel's political strategic depth is the United States, as it "provides the kind of [alternative strategic depth](#) that Israel has always sought in order to compensate for its relative lack of territorial and other resources needed to blunt threats to its security." The US has been [romancing Israel at Palestine's expense](#) and has swayed the world to ignore, for the most part, the plight of the Palestinians. Albeit now waning, it has done this due to the US' monolithic influence, which it commands amongst countries with the mainstream media as well as supranational entities such as the UN.

Israel has benefited meteorically from US largesse, as it is the largest cumulative recipient of US foreign aid, receiving around \$158 billion in bilateral assistance and [missile defense funding](#). The US has also provided state-of-the-art military tech as well as key intel to the Israelis, allowing the latter to become a modern military and intelligence juggernaut.

The US's military bases around the world, particularly in the Middle East, its political sway, as well as its reserve currency status, etc., all act as Israel's strategic depth due to the one-of-a-kind relationship the two nations share. In the current war as well, the US is Israel's main ally. Moreover, it is important to highlight that the Abraham Accords, the Camp David Accords, and other treaties would not have been possible if not for the aegis of the US.

The 2023 Israel-Hamas War

Besides Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the diminishing US influence on the global stage as well as in the Middle East coupled with Chinese ascendancy (see BRI and [Iran-Saudi Arabia détente](#)) might be problematic for Israel's strategic depth. This has been proven by the recent war between Hamas and Israel. Hamas carried out a well-executed yet barbaric attack on 7th October by crossing into southern Israel and killing Israeli civilians as well as security forces (around 1200).

This again was primarily due to the proximity between Gaza and Israel. Israel has responded with vehemence but as a historic practice, it has yet again attacked Palestinians indiscriminately destroying hospitals, media buildings, and residential areas. This has led to the deaths of around [11,000 people including around 4500 children](#), 3100 women, 670 elderly, and 100 UN staff.

Political Strategic Depth in the Current War

Israel's political strategic depth has been displayed in all its might in this war. The state has killed thousands of Palestinian civilians and the West and many other countries are either aiding Israel or at the very least, employing acquiescence. It shows that Israel is one of the few countries, akin to the US, that can get away with literal murder. Netanyahu has not been deemed a war criminal by the international powers while Putin was quite quickly after he invaded Ukraine.

That being said, when it comes to the common man, Israel's political and diplomatic strategic depth has suffered drastically. Many men and women around the world have changed their



opinions about the state. Record-setting pro-Palestinian rallies have been taking place in the US, the UK, Australia, and of course, across the Muslim world as well. Social media has become a great equalizer for the Palestinian people. Across the world, people are boycotting Israeli products/companies or companies that support Israel. Furthermore, there

is immense pressure on pro-Israeli governments across the world as their populaces are exhorting them to initiate a ceasefire or even end support to Israel.

Traditional Strategic Depth in the Current War

When it comes to Israel's lack of traditional strategic depth, it always endeavors to transfer the war to enemy lands as explained earlier – in this case, Gaza and the brutalities occurring there. The immediacy between Gaza and Israel has allowed the latter, as in the past, to easily invade the former – conversely, Hamas has been able to easily launch rockets from Gaza into Israel. In fact, Israel's Iron Dome was overwhelmed due to the barrage of Hamas rockets. Due to this, there are murmurings that Israel should occupy Gaza with troops on the ground (which was true until 2005) in addition to the current blockade of Gaza.

Yoav Gallant, Israel's defence minister, has called for a "buffer zone" to the west of the Gaza-Israel border. However, just how effective this strategic depth strategy will be is debatable as Hamas was still able to launch rocket attacks when Israel had occupied 20% of Gaza until 2005. There is also a fear that Hezbollah, from neighboring Lebanon, will open a new front in the war. This would prove quite disastrous for Israel as its army would be stretched. Invading Lebanon would be difficult while fighting an active war in Gaza. Therefore both Israel's traditional and political strategic depth stand strained which puts the state in an extremely precarious situation.

Conclusion

Ironically, it is Israel's own barbaric transgressions against the Palestinians that are the *raison d'être* for it being constantly threatened. Its historic draconian treatment of the Palestinian people, which continues unabated under the current far-right government is fanning the flames of hatred and threats against the state. While Israel's aggressive policy of pre-emptive strikes, nuclear deterrence, assassinations, and indiscriminate violence stems from its existential insecurities, the state tragically remains unaware that the ultimate strategic depth is in resolving the Palestinian issue humanely.

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Article

Congo Bleeding for Cobalt: A Genocide in the Making

About the Author



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Congolese Genocide

The conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is rooted back to the 1990s characterized by two civil wars and aggravated by the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Following the genocide, ethnic Hutu extremists sought refuge in the eastern part of the DRC, killing approximately one million Tutsis and non-extremists. The region became a hotbed of the revolt as more than 120 rebel militant organizations are operating in different provinces such as North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, and Tanganyika, including the M23 rebel group.

The conflict is fueled by competition for land and natural resources, unlawful executions by security services, and strained relations with neighboring states. The contemporary tensions between the DRC and Rwanda have exacerbated the situation, with both claiming the other to aiding rebel groups associated with ethnic Tutsis and Hutus respectively.

In November 2021, the Tutsi-led [M23 rebels](#) intensified their campaign in the eastern DRC, escalating the security situation. The group responsible for numerous attacks and the capture of several towns defied a ceasefire mediated between the DRC and Rwanda in November 2022.

Despite the presence of the East African Force and UN peacekeeping troops to monitor the withdrawal of rebel factions mainly M23, the ceasefire's goals were not met. Furthermore, M23 has continued its progress in the region since 2023, posing a severe threat to stability.

Major Forces

In addition to the M23 rebel group, other significant rebel groups are involved in the ongoing dispute in the DRC such as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and the Congo Cooperative for Development (CODECO). Since the 1990s, the ADF group originating from Uganda has been active in eastern DRC, pledging loyalty to the Islamic State in 2019. CODECO claims to be defending the ethnic Lendu's interests against the Hemas as well as the Congolese army.

Rwanda accused the DRC of aiding the Tutsi-led M23, while the DRC accused Rwanda of supporting Hutu militias engaged in the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Both the states denied the allegations which further added to the region's tensions. Amidst this intricate web of conflicts, allegations, and rebel actions, the East African Community (EAC) intervened in November 2022 sending military from Kenya, South Sudan, Burundi, and Uganda to address the unrest in eastern DRC.

The intervention of EAC has been criticized since large protests erupted in August demanding the withdrawal of both the EAC and UN peacekeeping soldiers as protesters claimed that both the international and regional forces have failed to address the insurgency effectively. Therefore, in response to the mounting pressure, DRC President Felix Tshisekedi has called for the EAC's departure by 8th December.

Cobalt Drives Deaths and Displacement

What does the world want with Congo, you might ask? It's the precious mines of cobalt. Cobalt is present in heterogenite rock found in massive quantities beneath Congo; almost [3.4 million metric tons](#) of cobalt can be found in Southern Congo. It is a crucial mineral that is a necessary



component of rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. Cobalt keeps batteries from catching on fire as it keeps cells stable.

Cobalt can be a by-product of copper or nickel mining but most of the world's cobalt comes from industrial mining within Congo; [74%](#) of the world's cobalt supply

came from Congo in 2021. It is mined in two major ways: an industrialized supply chain with excavators and regulated tunneling or artisanal mining. Artisanal mining is a slow death sentence for the people of Congo, one they must inflict on themselves if they want clothes on their backs and food in the bellies of their children.

Artisanal mining refers to freelance miners digging out cobalt themselves, without any sort of protective gear or machinery. Cobalt is toxic and essentially acts as a slow poison. It can lead to the loss of hearing or vision alongside other ailments such as cognitive impairment (confusion and memory loss), cardiomyopathy, and more. People are driven by desperation to these mines, they dig narrow tunnels deep into the earth's crust, drop/climb down without ropes or hardhats, and approach the walls with nothing but a pickaxe and sheer will.

After they've hacked at the walls, another round of men descend into the mines with sacks to carry out the rock, these men are known as carriers. These sacks are then carried to the tents where teams from various companies and corporations weigh them and pay the miners. However, there are complaints from the miners that the Chinese who sit and weigh the cobalt, cheat them of their due money. These artisanal miners live on 2\$ or less per day and are responsible for 20% of the cobalt that is exported from Congo.

China particularly plays an aggressive role in the industrial mines of Congo. In the provinces of Luvaraba (Kolwezi) and Upper Katanga (Lubumbashi), there are 19 cobalt mines, 15 of which are owned and operated by the Chinese. The Shabara Artisinal Mine is a prime example of the horrors being churned out of Congo day in and day out. It is located near Kolwezi; at a distance of almost 30 miles and is a part of the bigger mining system of Mutanda. It employs around **20 thousand miners** who work in shifts of 5000 at a time. It is overwhelmingly crowded and prone to conflict – interpersonal or psychological due to the stress put upon the workers.

The danger posed by both cobalt and its mining has now started to make its way to mainstream media. Cobalt is a harmful mineral that affects all those who breathe it in or touch it – both of which are done by Congolese residents day in and day out. Women who are pregnant or have their children strapped to their backs sit in rivers to wash out the dust from the cobalt. There are reports and scientific studies done that have proved to an alarming degree the direct connection between handling cobalt and women giving birth to **stillborn babies**. Even men who are in direct contact with cobalt can conceive a child with defects.

However, it is not just a biological or genetic concern that has been plaguing the Congolese. Freelance or Artisanal mining has on its own led to hundreds and thousands of deaths via collapsed and flooded mine shafts. The acidic dust that is produced from mining and excavating cobalt from the ground has been blowing with the wind and settling on farming land and crops, deeming the first infertile to grow much of anything and the latter toxic to all those who consume it.

The rivers are polluted from washing the minerals and sea life is dying out, closing yet another avenue for food consumption. The entire city of Kolwezi is built around the mining industry. Schools, hospitals, public parks, and recreational spaces have become a distant memory, for the city has been decimated by its residents for mining. They have no other choice when it comes to employment. Locals have been hounding their authorities for accountability, but the Congolese government has remained quiet on the front.



Reforms, policies, and developmental programs get pushed to the sidelines to make sure the status quo endures and capital production remains the topmost priority. Humanitarian organizations such as Amnesty International have attempted to shine a light on the issue. Amnesty put out a special report in 2016 that connected major automobile production houses to obtaining cobalt from poverty and crisis-struck Congo and its mines that utilize child labor to fulfill daily quotas.

In the age of social media, the report went a long way and garnered a lot of attention; so much so that brands started to request cobalt supply from regions and organizations not connected to Congo after all no international entity wants to cut its customer base in half by associating even at the lowest level with child labor.

Other Reasons for the Displacement Crisis

Ethnic Intolerance and Insurgency

There are multiple reasons for the displacement crisis in the DRC. One of the most important reasons is the legacy of ethnic intolerance and insurgency which have been triggered by the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. Almost 2 million Hutu refugees have sought refuge in the DRC mainly in North and South Kivu provinces establishing ethnic militias out of fear of persecution.

Tensions escalated when Rwandan Tutsis arranged militias against the Hutus who had fled to the DRC. This dynamic combined with the formation of militias by different ethnic as well as inter-ethnic groups feeling threatened has resulted in massive violence, sexual atrocities, and significant human rights violations perpetrated by multiple rebel organizations and individuals in the region.

Political Uncertainty and Lack of Inclusive Government

Another important reason for the displacement crisis is aggravated by political uncertainty and a lack of inclusive government. The President of DRC, Felix Tshisekedi, elected in 2019 has been facing numerous challenges in ensuring a stable as well as inclusive political system in the state.

As noted by the electoral commission, the next elections are scheduled for 20th December and they have been jeopardized by ongoing stability in different parts of the country. Moreover, the peripheries of DRC have been ruled by various ethnic tribes recognized by the central government but the issues of this region regarding representation, authority, territory, and resources are frequently disregarded exacerbating tensions and often contributing to the displacement of individuals.

Regional Conflicts

Last but not least are the regional conflicts that have fueled the ongoing crisis in the DRC, with armed groups gaining support as proxies for regional interests from the governments of different states such as Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi. Therefore, this engagement has resulted in a precarious security situation as indicated by the Kivu Security Tractor reporting 1400 deaths and more than 600 attacks in the region in the current year alone.

According to the World Food Programme, the consequent humanitarian crisis has left more than **1.1 million people** in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri in need of food assistance.



Displacement of 7 Million People

The DRC is in the midst of a severe humanitarian catastrophe with almost 7 million people internally displaced. This displacement has been regarded as one of the biggest internal displacement and humanitarian crises

in the world. The M23 group has breached ceasefires several times causing widespread displacement of individuals. According to the International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, **2.3 million people have been displaced in North Kivu, 1.6 million in Ituri, 1.3 million in South Kivu, and more than 350, 000 in Tanganyika provinces.**

The deteriorating security situation, especially in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, has resulted in increased migration, aggravating humanitarian needs and impacting various aspects including malnutrition, food prices, and health care. Despite global efforts such as the recruitment of the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) and the UN peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO), the M23 rebel militia continues its onslaught.

Alarming Surge in Atrocities

UNICEF strongly condemns a recent incident in the northeast of Beni, near the Democratic Republic of the Congo's border with Uganda, which resulted in 29 casualties, eight of which were children aged 4 to 15. Cases of killing, maiming, and child abduction, all of which are listed as "grave violations" by the UN, have increased drastically in 2023.

The DRC is on track to set a third consecutive year of record levels of verified grave violations against children, with a 41% increase in the first half of 2023 compared to the same time in 2022. According to the most recent data, 3,377 grave violations were committed against 2,420 children in 2022, as revealed in the [June 2023 report](#).

International Call for Action

An immediate international appeal to action is required to solve the rising humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Widespread violence, displacement, and a severe shortage of basic amenities have placed millions of Congolese residents in peril. The international community must band together to condemn human rights violations, support diplomatic attempts for conflict settlement, and provide robust humanitarian help to those in need.

Child Labor In Congo

"Work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work" – International Labor Organization

In Congo, any person below eighteen years of age is considered a minor, but when it comes to the technicalities of child labor, the minimum age for a person, before they are involved in the grinding industry, is 16. However, there have been children of a mere 4 years of age working to collect chunks of cobalt-studded rock from the piles outside mines.

Kids (male mostly) aged 7 and above find working in the mines more beneficial to their families than going to school. The crippled economic state and poverty rates of Congo are so high that



almost all the members of a family work the entire day at the mines – at different capacities to afford 2-3\$ a day. The working conditions are harsh, below standard, and toxic in every sense of the word.

The West is backing Rwandan-funded militias and rebel groups such as M-23 to perpetuate violence in the DRC. Civilians are being murdered and have become homeless within their homeland. A human rights expert working with the DRC, [Kambali](#) explained the reasoning behind this blind violence which links cobalt mining to forced internal displacement. He said that killing or brutalizing civilians is a tactic of displacement; when you terrorize a people enough, they will clear out the area making it available for more mines to be tunneled.

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You may also like: [The Civil War in Congo \(1960-1965\): The Roles of Belgium, the USA & the USSR](#)

Pakistan and America: Friendship or a Marriage of Convenience?

About the Author



Mehwish Shah is a student of International Relations and enjoys writing on social issues, global politics, and international relations.

While they say that **the very ink with which history is written is merely fluid prejudice**, the relationship between Pakistan and America is too complex to be understood without delving deep into the dredges of the past. The paper briefly analyzes the repercussions on Pakistan for siding with American interests in South Asia since the time of Ayub Khan.



Ayub Khan is in power, and it is the first era of American military and economic aid flowing into Pakistan. America is anti-communism, and so it forges an alliance with Pakistan to further its agenda of curbing any communism in Asia. Pakistan, a fledgling nation only more than a decade into existence,

accepts the aid and joins organizations such as The Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) and The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) on America's 'informal' behest.

When Pakistan moved into Kashmir in 1965, America backed off and Ayub Khan realized, albeit late, that the "relationship he had forged with the United States was not based on mutual interest but on the [interest of Washington alone](#)".

The statement begs attention since America has been steadfast in its policy towards Pakistan – starting from the 1950s to date. History is witness that whenever America needed Pakistan to further their agenda, they would rekindle the old "friendship" and buy their way in. Pakistan is not without blame, however. Due to the country's constant need for economic assistance, unwillingness to stand steadfast in the global arena, and corrupt leadership – Pakistan has been unable, or *unwilling*, to say no.

Keeping America's policy (*and sincerity*) in mind, the price that Pakistan has been paying for the "friendship" with the Americans is further detailed below.

It is the era of Zia-ul Haq. Economic and military aid is at an all-time high. Why? Due to American interests becoming contingent on Pakistan once again. The Cold War is at its zenith, and the



Soviets have just invaded Afghanistan (1979). The scenario is less than ideal for America but they would not engage in an open, all-out war by attacking the Soviets directly. The simple solution? Buy Pakistan's help to get their dirty work done. The Pakistani military and intelligence train the mujahedeen (mostly

Afghans) and supply them with weapons that America has poured into Pakistan.

While during the period, GDP was up to 6.4% and the income per head increased to 3.3%, the aftermath was devastating. Fast forward, the Soviets have fallen and America has once again, realized its agenda. The result? The funding to Pakistan ends and the Americans ignore the armed mujahideen in Afghanistan and let them have at it. The mujahideen fragment into factions and warlordism proliferates causing a civil war. Eventually, out of the civil war chaos, the Taliban are born in 1994.

Again, history highlights how America is not a friend, rather an opportunist who will work towards their own purpose and their own purpose alone. On the world stage, Pakistan continued to tow America's line, and America kept granting boons whenever they saw fit. The biggest reason perhaps for Pakistan's "comradery" with America was the hope that they would ultimately support the country with the Kashmir issue. While trilateral talks did take place, nothing was ever achieved – primarily due to the lack of sincerity on America's part.

Coming back to the Taliban – they became the new rulers of Afghanistan with the help of Pakistan. Their government in Afghanistan were harboring Al Qaeda (who took responsibility for 9/11). In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, the Bush administration almost [forcibly acquired Pakistan's assistance](#). The offer was simple: help America or face the consequences.

The War on Terror came into being. America, as entitled as ever, threatened Pakistan to help them eradicate the terrorist forces (*or else*). Pakistan complied and although it was rewarded handsomely, the consequences were inconceivable. There was severe blowback of withdrawing Pakistani support to the Taliban and aiding the Americans – local fundamentalist groups displayed their vehemence by turning militant against the Pakistani state and began an insurgency.



Years fighting the insurgency, Pakistan has endured over thirty thousand civilian and military casualties solely due to the fact that the country agreed to America's terms and conditions and served as their allies against the Taliban. The Pakistan Army had to fight a

seemingly perpetual war near the Afghan-Pak border against insurgents like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Eventually, the Armed Forces of Pakistan prevailed, due to Operation Zarb-e-Azb, and dismantled the TTP effectively ending the backbone of the insurgency in 2017. Due to this major campaign against the TTP, terrorist attacks [have dropped in the country](#) as the terrorist infrastructure was neutralized.

While the terrorist attacks may have subsided considerably as compared to the past decade, Pakistan, in the process, has lost over twenty thousand civilians and over eight thousand military/law enforcement officials, tolerated the constant jabs on its sovereignty, and endured times of great fear and uncertainty.

The United States, whenever they required a partner in South Asia, turned to Pakistan. Conclusively, Pakistan has ultimately, throughout history, been the biggest loser in the “friendship” with America. Where the nation should have remained steadfast in its ideals and sense of nationalism, it opted for easy money and a compromise on sovereignty. As rightly said, “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it”. It remains to be seen whether Pakistan will learn from its past mistakes – or will continue repeating them.

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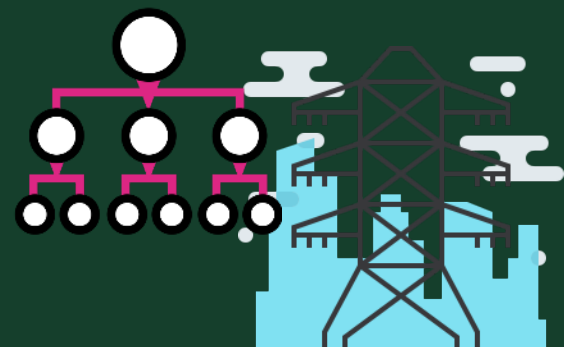
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The Structural and Divisional Hierarchy of WAPDA

About the Author



Fiza Bibi Ameen is a final-semester BS Physics student and gold medal qualifier at Riphah International University, Islamabad. She also contributed a prize-winning submission to the HEC inter-university essay writing competition for the year 2022. She fancies theoretical research in her subject and prospects of advancement in personal, professional, and economic life, particularly for the less developed parts of Pakistan.



Introduction



The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has served Pakistan for 65 years in power generation, water supply and drainage, irrigation, land prevention, flood control, and many other sectors. WAPDA, like other federal organizations, operates through a structural and divisional hierarchy. This article explores the aforementioned hierarchy.

Structural Hierarchy of WAPDA

Chairman

The organization is led by a chairman who is appointed by the government of Pakistan. The Establishment Division [appointed](#) the current chairman of WAPDA, Lt Gen (retd) Sajjad Ghani, to fill the vacancy left by former Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Muzammil Hussain. Muzammil Hussain's tenure started in 2016 and ended in 2021. He was given an extension for another five years, from which he retired in 2022 due to personal reasons.

In WAPDA, the chairman has power and influence over decision-making as the head of the organization. All hierarchy levels below the chairman have their share of focus, while overall approval and decision-making are reserved for the chairman.

Members from the Water, Power, and Finance Wings

Members hold the most senior positions in the water, power, and finance departments (the three wings of WAPDA). They are in charge of overseeing their respective departments. Their responsibilities include the development of ongoing projects, the planning of new projects, and the timely implementation of projects as well as delivering reports to the chairman. For example, in a recent visit by a World Bank delegation, the members from the water, power, and finance wings also accompanied the chairman in briefing about the World Bank-funded ongoing projects.

General Managers (GM) at WAPDA

A general manager (GM) oversees a specific division, such as hydroelectric power, thermal power, irrigation, or finance. He ensures and monitors his department's situation and provides necessary and timely reports to the member of the pertaining department. For example, the general managers for security, administration, and the Human Resource Division (HRD) are appointed to manage the respective areas.

Director Generals

As subordinates to the general manager, they supervise the allocated duty and report to the general manager. For example, the Human Resource Division general manager receives direct reports from four direct generals about the further divisions under HRD.

Secretary

The secretary of WAPDA is in charge of the secretariat's day-to-day operations. He organizes and allocates time for meetings, records the decisions and directives, and coordinates with WAPDA's water, power, and finance wings. Monitoring and implementation of authoritative decisions is also a part of the secretary's role.

Projects Directors

A project director at WAPDA oversees every aspect of a project while taking into account its nuances from the reports provided by his subordinates. The project directors, in a nutshell, are in charge of all development, financial, and evaluation information of projects.

Assistant Directors

As the designation name implies, they assist the project directors corresponding to their department in the research and implementation of the project.

Project Chief Engineers

The engineering department for a specific project is led by the project chief engineer. It is the responsibility of the chiefs to lead the engineers and technicians on their team toward improvement to ensure the safety and efficacy of the project in an ever-changing landscape.

Engineering Faculty and Technicians

Engineering teams and technicians take the responsibility of translating the allocated sections of the ongoing projects and providing services for the under consideration ones.

Labor Workforce

Like the safe and proper functioning of other institutes, the labor workforce contributes as per the requirements and organizational culture of WAPDA.

Structural Hierarchy and WAPDA's Water Wing



Water Wing divisions have been established throughout Pakistan, including the north, central, south, and northern areas divisions, implying that the domain of the Water Wing encompasses all provinces of Pakistan, as well as Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. The Water Wing is responsible for executing all water-related development projects

be it the progress of under-construction dams or canals, the development of hydropower projects, or research in the water sector.

The member of the Water Wing is in charge of the overall water development projects. The project-specific zones for example Mangla, Meelum Mangla, and Diamer Basha projects, etc. also report to Water Wing members. The different developing levels of projects are covered by chief engineers associated with the projects. The project directors secure the direction of projects for their timely and effective translation as reality.

The general manager of finance (Water) is in charge of this wing's financial affairs. Further service divisions, under the supervision of their heads, support the functioning of the Water Wing.

Structural Hierarchy and WAPDA's Power Wing

Hydropower stations for power generation, licensed by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), are managed and operated by the WAPDA's [Power Wing](#). This wing is also in charge of delivering energy to the NTDC (National Transmission & Despatch Company) grid system and invoice details to the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G). It also keeps an eye on the plans, setup, and equipment requirements for upcoming hydroelectric power plants.

Furthermore, the construction of new hydroelectric power plants, the equipment they necessitate, and providing the necessary training for the employees are also included here. The power member supervises all the ongoing and under-consideration projects under the power category. The respective directors, assistant directors, chief engineers leading the engineering team, and relevant workforce play their needed roles to translate the planned projects into reality. The general manager (finance) from the Power Wing supervises financial matters.

Structural Hierarchy and WAPDA's Finance Wing

The [Finance Wing](#) oversees the WAPDA audit, accounts, finance, and costing administrative operations in addition to managing other financing operations. The finance member is the highest designation in this department. To assist him in his work, a team of individuals with a specified focus works under his supervision. The loans and grants from the federal and provincial governments, the money raised from the sale of WAPDA bonds, the loans from government approval, the foreign aid and loans from international agencies, etc. are all included in the [Authority Fund](#), with a particular authority fund team.

Divisional Hierarchy of WAPDA

The Administration Division of WAPDA works through three divisions. First for human resource development, second for administration, and third for security.

Each division employs a workforce and directs them for the organization's projects and, thus, toward vision.

Human Resource Division (HRD)

WAPDA's [Human Resource Division](#) (HRD) takes care to allocate and develop human resources at the organization. Here, the general manager of the division receives direct reports from four direct generals (DGs).

1. DG (HR) is specified for the labor force and its welfare.
2. DG (CM) focuses on career management (CM) for officers from the Water Wing.
3. DG (CM) P&C considers transfer/posting, promotion, and deputation.
4. DG (Recruitment) is further assisted by the recruitment cell in examinations to attract and recruit the best team.

Administration Division

The [Administration Division](#) of WAPDA, headed by the general manager (admin), is responsible for providing general services and welfare activities to employees. These services include transport and healthcare facilities (through the Medical Directorate). The provision of office equipment and space as well as property management is included in the administration division's roles. It is also responsible for formulating the policies and procedures for the under-construction and under-observation projects.

Security Division

The general manager (security) leads the security team. The responsibilities of the Security Division include workplace and workforce security. The occupational safety of employees and the recruitment and deployment of the WAPDA Security Force are also included in the division's roles. Furthermore, the formulation of security policies and procedures along with the training of the newly employed security team are included in Security Division's role at WAPDA.

Conclusion

The structural hierarchy of WAPDA, with the chairman as the ultimate leader, includes members, general managers director generals, and other levels for all departments. For each project, there are designations of project directors and chief engineers to be filled in. The services of subordinates to chief directors and engineers serve the organization's narrow focus efficiently. Each of the three wings at WAPDA implements the overall hierarchical structure of WAPDA to expedite the projects. The divisional hierarchy for administration, human resource, and security perform the allocated roles to ensure the overall flow, transparency, and performance of the organization. Hence, WAPDA owes the efficiency, transparency, and performance of its projects to its structural and divisional hierarchy.

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Judiciary vs Executive

About the Author



Huzaifah Sehgal is a lawyer with expertise in international law, technology law, corporate law, environmental law, and constitutional law.



The chimera of justice often wavers. In this realm, the judiciary, the guardians of the rule of law, hold individuals to account; yet, the executive, often shrouded in impunity, elude the sword of accountability. Countless are the instances when the law enforcement agencies in Pakistan have conducted raids without warrant, arrests without cause, torture without conscience – all with the resounding hush within the courtrooms, hinting at an executive immunity that not only condones, but fosters such infamies.

The judiciary is one of the three organs of a state, and serves as an indispensable facet in a democratic society. Under the doctrine of separation of powers, it bears the sole responsibility of interpreting the law. However, there are moments when its calling transforms from an interpreter to that of an enforcer – when other branches of the state transcend their constitutional limitations.

Over the years, there have been numerous occurrences of the executive overstepping its



constitutional parameters, even ethical as some would say, and the judiciary had to intervene to keep them in check.

Among such instances are the recent [conviction of Imran Khan](#), disqualification of then-Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, and judiciary's pivotal role in [challenging the executive's attempt of imposing a state of emergency in 2007](#). Each time the executive transgressed its constitutional bounds, prompting the judiciary to don its armor and wield its sword on behalf of

the people. However, certain executive transgressions remain unscathed: arbitrary violations of the fundamental rights of individuals.

While the colonizers have long departed, their draconian methods of policing continue to cast a dark shadow over the post-subcontinent. The Pakistani police persist in conducting unwarranted raids, making unlawful arrests, employing torture to coerce confessions, and in certain cases, resorting to extrajudicial killings.

Such arbitrary actions not only violate the constitution of the country but also elicit doubt on Pakistan's adherence to its international legal obligations stemming from the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Nonetheless, these constitutional breaches often slip through the clutches of law, shielded by the official authority of the perpetrator. A compelling instance to consider is the case of [Abid Boxer](#), a former (dismissed) police inspector accused of land grabbing, extortion, kidnapping, torture, and orchestration of several extrajudicial killings, often referred to euphemistically as 'encounters'. He has been recently booked by the Organized Crime Unit (OCU) for many other charges including terrorism. Majority of the atrocities associated with this man predate the inception of my conscious self-awareness; yet, the law is still trying to navigate through his infamies.

The issue of executive unaccountability for actions that infringe the fundamental rights of individuals at large came to the forefront on 23rd October 2023, when the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan issued a verdict, declaring [military trials of civilians](#) illegal and unconstitutional. While this much-awaited ruling is a win for democracy and the Constitution of the country, it did not attribute any responsibility for the purposes of retribution to the federal government of time, which had made the decision to subject civilians to military trials.

Illegal actions don't emerge in a vacuum; they thrive in the corridors of power, and power all too often slips through the cracks of accountability. We should listen to Asad Rahim Khan: 'we could try and pick up the little green book for a change'.

The fundamental rights in the Constitution are inviolable save in accordance with the law. Right to life and liberty, safeguards against unlawful arrests, right to fair-trial, and protection from torturous acts, all are recognized by the constitution as fundamental rights that shall prevail over all other laws, customs, or 'usage(s) having the force of law'.

But then, how could the government at that time choose to disregard the Constitution's protection of fundamental rights and proceed with, or even argue for, trials of civilians by martial courts? Was it born out of a profound ignorance of the Constitution's sacred principles, or was it a deliberate defiance of its hallowed provisions? Either way, does this not amount to an attempt to subvert or undermine the Constitution?

All individuals, regardless of their cloak of executive protection, must be held accountable under the law. Accountability of all is what shall help this country rise from the ashes – and the judiciary has a determinative role in this ascent: wielding the sword of the constitution. Per Roosevelt's expression: 'No man is above the law and no man is below it.'

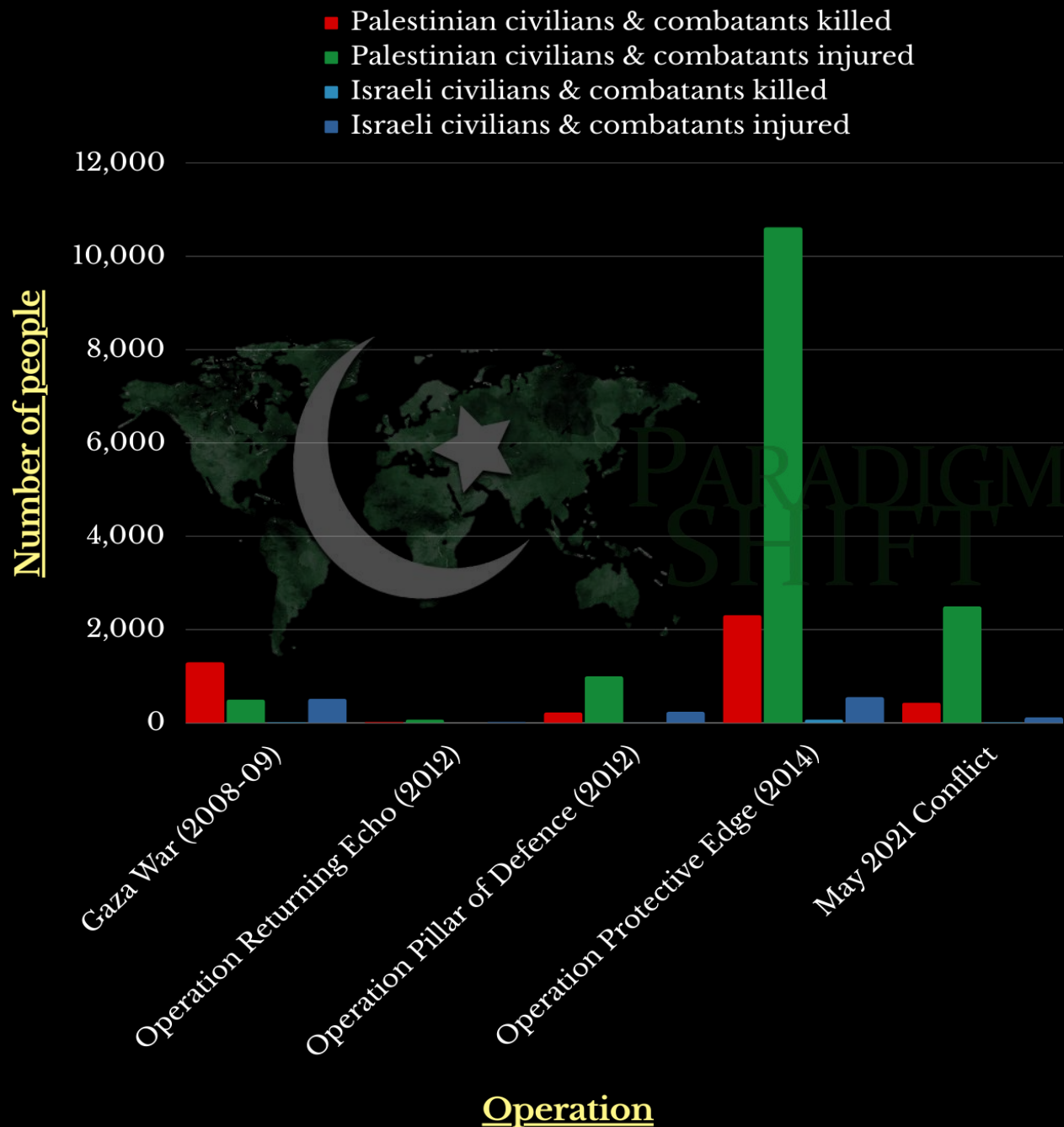
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Opinion

AI in Modern Warfare: A Glimpse into the Future of Conflict

About the Author



Bisma Ali is an A-level student at LGS, Lahore. She is interested in artificial intelligence and other related fields.

Nowadays, artificial intelligence (AI) is being used in warfare at a rapid pace. It can be employed in strategic decision-making and military systems. It is also an important tool to initiate propaganda and deception, which have always been integral to warfare. This can bring a new modulation to Clausewitz's theory of war. AI-regulated "principles of war" can be created to lead one's adversaries into confusion.

For example, the fog of war is composed of uncertainty about situations and events during a war. This situation can be compounded by an AI-depicted physical and psychological environment, leading to a simple or complex awareness for the opposition's ground commanders.



AI in Sudan's Civil War

Recently, an AI-powered voice cloning technology emerged in [Sudan's civil war](#). It was used to impersonate Omar al-Bashir, the [former president of Sudan](#).

This got a lot of traction on social media platforms. Anonymous accounts posted leaked recordings to spread the message. The recordings posted on the channel "Voice of Sudan" appeared to be a mixture of old clips from press conferences during coup attempts, news reports, and voice messages. These were attributed to the former president.

The cloned conversation gave the impression that Omar al-Bashir had vehemently opposed the Sudanese military before the coup. This created a change in the public's perception of his support. The creation of an AI-modulated fog of war no longer hinges on traditional actors distorting reality. Now, even a person with average technical expertise can use such tactics to change public or military perceptions and thus create the intended confusion.

AI and the Russia-Ukraine War

The warfare in Ukraine has seen AI advancement, especially in the recognition of targets and objects through satellite imagery. The open-source data is analyzed through AI tools to determine the locations of military movements, weapon placement, and casualties suffered by both armies. The Russian Ministry of Defense is also looking to AI firms to provide them with assistance in data analysis and decision-making during the ongoing conflict. The drones have also been used excessively to target tanks and other military targets in the [Ukrainian war](#).

Israel's Fire Factory

The recent clash between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has also been tampered with by AI interventions. As the Hamas-Israel conflict was developing, the Israeli military used AI-backed technology to mark out strategic locations to be bombarded by drones. Hamas too used explosives carried by drones to destroy Israel's observation posts on the [Gaza border](#). An AI system codenamed "Fire Factory" has been used by the Israeli Defense Forces to locate targets and conduct bombings, coupled with a quick retaliatory ground assault. Fire Factory "uses data about military-approved targets to calculate munitions loads, prioritize and assign thousands of targets to aircraft and drones and propose a schedule."

The Future of War

Given this thrust and dependence on technology, the battlefield is going to be saturated by AI-driven technologies in the coming years. Drones are going to be used for intelligence detection and calculation. Based on such information, a whole gamut of military operations may be launched with the active support of the ground troops. This may result in the exact calculation of military force per the measurement of the fog of war components.

Each member of a military contingent may be fixed with a GPS chip so that his or her movement can be traced through drones. Once the military installations and their locations are fed into the drones, they can easily be targeted and destroyed.

The concept of an AI-modulated trinity of war may become a reality in the near future. The AI can encapsulate the aspirations of people calculated from different social media platforms. The



military commanders on the ground get precise pictures unfolding before them with a minimum fog of war or vice versa.

The government also receives AI-based

options for each situation, which helps it decide between public-centric and reality-based approaches. Moreover, AI may be conveniently adopted to change public opinion in favor of or against an issue, particularly during warfare. This gives a range of options to military strategists and decision-makers. A stage may be reached in the future when [AI is used extensively](#). Every chance or probability in war may be reduced to certainty.

A military force might prove to its adversary that it knows the enemy's exact capability, making it impossible for the latter to put up any surprises. This would, hence, leave the enemy with no other option except submission. This may give a new meaning to the phrase victory without war.

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Article

Who Do We Blame?

About the Author



Hamza Sharif graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from HITEC University. His areas of interest are geopolitics, current affairs, and history.



Attributing blame to one or multiple actors in the protracted conflict between Palestine and Israel requires a nuanced understanding of historical events and socio-political dynamics, but history goes way back; at least till the time of Prophet Musa. For this analysis, however, we shall take an excerpt from the times of the Umayyad Dynasty in Al Andalus (Cordova Capital).



Abd-al Rehman the Third became the Emir of Al Andalus in 912A D after his predecessor Abdullah ibn Muhammad. Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived in '[convivencia](#),' a term that means 'co-existence'. None were persecuted on the basis of religion and belief; rather, non-Muslims were given the title 'dhimmi' or people who were granted special status and protection under the umbrella of Islamic law.

From the 8th to 13th century, the period has been termed the 'Islamic Golden Age' however, this was also the time when Jews, to some extent, were given carte blanche in

the socio-economic spectrum. The zeitgeist was termed the 'Golden Age of Jewish Culture'. To back this claim, I mention [Hasdai Ibn Shaprut](#), a Jew and a personal physician of the Emir Abd-Al Rehman, who acted as a vizier without title. The linguistic advancement of Hebrew is attributed to his efforts.

Additionally, we have multiple other Jews who contributed not only to the state of Al Andalus but also to their own Jewish culture, for example, Samuel ibn Naghrillah, Menahem Bin Saruq, etcetera. Nevertheless, history tells us that the rise of an empire is contingent upon its fall. In 1492, King Ferdinand of Aragon and Queen Isabella of Castille took over Al Andalus, and Muslim rule had come to an end; so did the relative tolerance and prosperity of Jews in Al Andalus.

Rampant Jewish persecution co-linked with the Alhambra decree forced the Sephardic Jews to seek refuge somewhere else. On the port of the Ottoman Empire waited the Viziers of Sultan Bayezid, the second to receive the first Sephardic Jewish refugee ship. Similar to Islamic Al-Andalus, the Jews established their center for Jewish thought and culture in the Ottoman Empire.

Let's also delve into the lives of Jews under the rule of the rest of Christendom-dominant medieval Europe. Taking the examples such as the Crusades and the barbaric massacre of Rhineland Jews, Jews lived in forced seclusion in areas called 'ghettos'. One such ghetto named [Judengasse](#) was situated in Frankfurt which was hardly a mile long and its width a mere 12 feet or so with a multitude of Jewish families cramped into it; the Rothschild family was one of them.



A Rothschild house, [Waddesdon Manor](#) in [Waddesdon](#), Buckinghamshire, England, donated to the National Trust by the family in 1957
“Waddesdon Manor & Gardens” by Colin Park is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).

The maltreatment of Jews in Europe had multiple facets. There was the religious motive; the Christians showed resentment for the matter that Jews were to blame for the crucifixion of Jesus. Coming to economic aspects, usury was prohibited for Christians hence the business of lending money was often taken up by Jews; the rivalry resulted in discrimination and persecution of Jews. Medieval European politics would usually use Jews as a scapegoat for their own political failures.

Now whether the scapegoating was vindicated or not is not the scope of this article. However, we do see some iniquity when it comes to the fact that many Jews were blamed for causing the Black Plague in the 14th century. All these factors and many more reverberated into the anti-semitic demeanor of Christian Europe. This not only persisted in medieval Europe but also drifted off into 17th, 18th, and 19th century Europe.



In England, some Jews were forced into exile in Australia; Jews were shipped for merely being Jews. William Wentworth (17th-18th century), an Australian rights activist, had the support of former convicts, convicts, and Jews in Australia. To undermine his struggle

for inclusive reforms in Australia, the elite would usually disparage his supporters by labelling them mere convicts and Jews. This is just one instance that describes the grotesque prejudice shown towards Jews in Europe.

Throughout European history, Jews have been disregarded. A more recent example is the infamous holocaust. Nevertheless, world Zionist organizations kept efforts going on for a separate homeland for Jews. These efforts ultimately cultivated into a series of agreements and correspondences between the British and the Zionists. Yet the commitments made to the Zionists were in total contradiction to what was committed to the Arabs in 1915 and 1916 in the MacMahon-Hussein Correspondence.

The British committed to Sharif Hussein, the King of Hejaz, that if the Arabs revolted against the Ottomans during World War I, they would support the independence of the Arabs. Simultaneously, the Triple Entente (UK, France, and Russia) in 1916 signed the agreement of Sykes-Picot. This was another instance when the British double-crossed the Arabs. This treaty envisaged that the territories of the Ottoman Empire shall be divided between the UK, France, and Russia.



The agreement was signed in clandestine circumstances attributing to the fact they were still fighting a war and needed the support of the Arabs. However, it was made public by the Bolsheviks when they took over Russia in the 1917 Russian Revolution which proved to be extremely humiliating for Britain; by then the damage had already been inflicted.

By 1920, the British were granted the mandate for Palestine by the League of Nations which they formally adopted in 1922. Hence, began the larger part of the influx of Jews from Europe to Palestine.

As years passed by, tensions rose between the Arabs and the Jews. Jews resorted to guerrilla warfare with factions formed between 1920 and 1940 called the Haganah, [Irgun](#) and [Lehi](#). The IDF formed after 1948 comprised of military personnel from all three factions mentioned above. These guerrilla fighters carried out sporadic attacks not only against the Arab civilians but also against the British forces present in Palestine.

From 1936 to 1939, major fighting broke out between the Arabs and the Zionists. We shall call them Zionists instead of Jews now as not all Jews are Zionists. Zionism is just another political thought affiliated to Jews with radical nationalistic ideas; much like the [Hindutva concept in India](#). Nevertheless, in 1939, representatives from both sides met in the UK to concoct a plan to put an end to the exasperating situation in Palestine. Although the conference ended unsubstantially, the British issued the white paper to somehow alleviate the bellicose circumstances in Palestine.

The white paper stated that in the next five years, 75,000 more Jews would be given entry into Palestine (this would've made 1/3 of the population of the Jewish faith) and their purchase of land shall be highly restricted; after five years, it would be in the discretion of the Arabs to decide how many Jews can migrate further or how much land they can purchase. Both representatives rejected it on the basis that Palestine was to be solely Arab land and the Arabs were perhaps skeptical of the British inability to honor their statement owing to their previous betrayals.

Soon after the world was engulfed by World War II which pushed further Jewish diaspora into Palestine. At the end of the war, Britain had been battered by the belligerent repercussions of war. For Britain, the Palestine Mandate had become a white elephant, so it transferred the issue to the United Nations due to its milquetoast internal socio-economic and political factors. This is when the world decided on UN Resolution 181 to divide the land into three territories: a Jewish state, an Arab state, and Jerusalem as an international territory.

The Jewish state was to be granted Eastern Galilee, Jezreel Valley, the coastal area from Haifa to Tel Aviv, and the Negev desert. On the other hand, the Arab state was to be granted West Galilee, the West Bank, and the coastal area from Ashdod till the Egyptian border. The Jews comprised of lesser percentage of the population but were granted 56% of the land. Conspicuously, this was prejudice towards the indigenous people of the land.

This resolution was vehemently rejected by the Muslim nations and rightly so, keeping in view the unfair distribution.

So who do we blame for this whole conundrum of keeping pre-1948 history into perspective? As we can see, multiple facets in history have resulted in the tipping point of this obstinate conflict. It would be absurd and ludicrous of me to say that the pragmatic methods of the Emirs during the Islamic Golden Age are to be blamed for welcoming Jews into Muslim lands and causing them to build a certain affection for Muslim lands.

The problem isn't instilled in the Jews, but in the radical Zionists who govern authority in modern-day Israel. The extremist ideas of Zionism are condemnable and have blood on their hands. Its ideas such as the concept of 'Greater Israel' do not align with the current world order of respecting the sovereignty of every nation. Another actor we can definitely put the blame on is Britain and the non-altruistic demeanor with which it handled the mandate received from the League of Nations.

Britain being in a feeble position during the war required the pecuniary support of the rich Jewish families such as the Rothschilds who often lent money to the monarchy. Simultaneously, it also



required the support of the Arabs to dismantle the Ottomans. An odor of foul play is definitely in the ambiance here. Britain

failed to prognosticate the consequences its actions would result in. We observe a similar fate with the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India. From both conflicts, we see a pattern that

While I've labelled Britain and the concept of Zionism as the main reasons for this catastrophe, it would be highly unfair of me towards the people who suffer in Gaza and the West Bank to not fully address the third actor who is responsible for their suffering: the Arab countries and the internal organizations such as PLO, Fatah, and Hamas. From a historical point of view, my opinion



is that the acceptance of the white paper was the best option available to Arabs.

Given that, after the 5-year transitional period, Arabs were to get discretionary powers over the minority Jew immigrants. Had the Arabs been prudent enough, through political maneuvering, they could've suppressed the effect of the immigrant Jews and, as seen throughout history, could've lived in convivencia again under majority Muslim rule.

However, keeping in view the current circumstances, many mistakes have been made, imperatively the division between the Arabs and the factions within existing Palestine itself. The Arab countries of the region fail to speak in unison and take up a staunch stance for Palestine. As for the internal politics of Palestine, factions such as PLO, Fatah, and Hamas are unable to come together due to their vested interests.

Amidst the current crisis, it is crucial for all Muslims to come together as one and vehemently condemn the actions of Israel and demand the international community to coerce Israel into a ceasefire and grant the Palestinians their human rights. It is not a matter of who's on who's side now, but rather who is humane enough to speak up against the barbarism carried out by Israel against the innocent Palestinians.

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China's Maritime Strategy: Unleashing Artificial Intelligence in the South China Sea

About the Author



Amina Iqbal is studying International Relations at Kinnaird College for Women University, Lahore.



Introduction

The South China Sea holds great geopolitical and economic importance due to its pivotal maritime trade routes, abundant fisheries, and enormous reserves of oil and gas. China's use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the region is an intelligent attempt to strengthen its control and marine

might. Moreover, the use of artificial intelligence makes it possible to develop complex autonomous underwater systems and implement real-time monitoring, to strengthen China's naval presence and strategic advantage in the contested South China Sea.

Furthermore, China wants to safeguard its interests, acquire a technological advantage, and exert dominance in this important geopolitical field, placing itself as a vital participant in regional affairs. However, to do this, China is integrating AI into deep-sea operations, marine drones, and decision-making processes.

China's Strategic Utilization of AI in the South China Sea

In the South China Sea, the use of artificial intelligence is at its peak because the world has transformed, and every state wants to expand its influence in the region; therefore, they're utilizing AI for this purpose. However, China is leveraging AI as a key advantage in the region, intending to enhance its control and influence in the region via different applications.

Deep Sea Operations

China is planning to develop an [AI-run colony](#) deeply focused on unmanned submarine science and defense operations. The proposed colony, potentially situated in the Manilla Trench, justifies China's deployment of valuable resources in the South China Sea. Moreover, this location makes it easier to observe seismic activity and may even make it possible to conduct hostile activities as well as follow foreign vessels while masking them as humanitarian goals.

Maritime Drones

The Chinese Academy of Sciences is pursuing an ambitious plan to develop Extra-large Underwater Unmanned Vehicles (XLUUVs) and unmanned autonomous underwater submarines. There are numerous advantages of these drones as they can travel great distances and perform a variety of tasks, raising serious security problems such as the possibility of unintentional assaults or plausible denial of intentional activities.

Underwater Great Wall

In the South China Sea, the “Underwater Great Wall” initiative of China involves deploying a network of submarine detectors to enhance national security. In addition, by placing subsurface sensors around the region and enabling real-time monitoring this strategic initiative seeks to offset the advantage enjoyed by the United States and Russia in submarine capabilities.

Dual-Use Technology

China is investigating how to improve military applications particularly in naval operations by integrating AI algorithms from the civilian sector. Additionally, the ability of artificial intelligence to significantly enhance military capabilities is demonstrated by the seamless transition of AI algorithms from civilian use, for instance, controlling unmanned submarines.

China's Island Building in the South China Sea

In recent times, China developed an AI model for its island-building projects in the disputed South China Sea (SCS). The [Transportation Science and Engineering College of the Civil Aviation University](#) of China, Tianjin has created this [AI simulation](#) to support China's maritime claims in this divisive area. Moreover, the simulation envisions a logistics network connecting 17 to 80 features in the Spratly and Paracel Islands, fostering business growth and bolstering China's influence.

However, the most comprehensive scenario with 80 elements would require an estimated expenditure of 20 billion yuan, about [US \\$2.9 billion](#), which will include the cost of docks, warehouses, cargo ships as well as regular flights in the simulated logistics network.

Furthermore, by strengthening its influence and maritime activities in the region, China may increase its commitment to improve its logistical capabilities which would exacerbate the already tense geopolitical dynamics in the region.

Implications

The use of artificial intelligence in the South China Sea has numerous implications and some of them are following.

Geopolitical and Security Implications

The South China Sea's AI integration by China has significant geopolitical and security implications. The AI technologies enhance China's maritime surveillance, reconnaissance and military capabilities, allowing for real-time monitoring and analysis of regional activity. The strategic positioning and response capabilities of China in the contentious territories are improved by its increased situational awareness, potentially shifting the



balance of power and affecting local geopolitical dynamics. Likewise, the militarization of AI can increase security concerns and exacerbate regional conflicts, possibly sparking competition to develop the most advanced and complex AI systems.

Privacy and International Law Concerns

China's extensive use of artificial intelligence in the South China Sea creates privacy issues and concerns regarding international law compliance. In addition, AI's monitoring powers, mainly in the marine sector, may violate neighboring states' privacy and sovereignty. Concerns have been raised about privacy as well as transparency about the gathering and analysis of data about naval and civilian activities.

Furthermore, a framework is needed that ensures the appropriate and legal deployment of AI in the region because, in contemporary times, there are no clear global agreements or rules addressing the use of AI in maritime security, leaving the possibility for ambiguity and potential abuse.

US Response to China's Strategic Claims in the South China Sea

Many observers believe that current US responses to China's operations in the South China Sea are insufficient. This weak response has unintentionally contributed to the myth that China is progressively driving the United States out of the region. In the view of the regional states, it has evolved into a key test of American commitment. The United States loses some of its appeal as a dependable security partner if it cannot successfully oppose Chinese coercion and runs the risk of sending a harmful message about the strength of its alliance structure.

The US has had difficulty adequately assisting its regional partners in resisting Chinese coercion. While these partners must maintain strategic autonomy, capacity-building efforts have struggled to keep up with China's rapidly developing capabilities.

Furthermore, upholding international law in the South China Sea remains difficult. To effectively resist China's control ambitions, the United States must consider non-military solutions and strive to develop a larger coalition of regional partners.

Strategic Approach & Alliance Leverage

The United States requires a long-term and diverse strategy to properly fight China's aspirations to control the South China Sea. Maintaining a strong regional position requires the country to preserve its military advantage. This includes investing in critical capabilities while emphasizing



military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, leveraging strong Asian allies is critical to raising the costs of Chinese efforts to undermine the regional system. The United States should push close allies like Australia and Japan to contribute significantly, strengthening capability and capacity for a cohesive and effective response to Chinese coercion.

Conclusion

To sum up, China's strategic integration of artificial intelligence into its naval operations in the South China Sea demonstrates a carefully planned move aimed at enhancing its influence and control over a region of extensive geopolitical and economic significance. Additionally, China aims to gain an important strategic advantage by adopting AI technologies for deep-sea operations, autonomous underwater vehicles, submarine detection networks and even island-building simulations.

However, this will foster increased surveillance capabilities and strengthen its military power in the disputed waters. Nevertheless, this militarization fueled by AI raises concerns around the world from potential violations of international standards and privacy issues to shifts in geopolitical power. To maintain peace and stability in the region and elsewhere, it is crucial for the global community to watch and negotiate the changing landscape of AI applications carefully. Thus, this requires striking a balance between technological innovation and adherence to ethical, legal, and privacy standards.

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Rise of Hindu Nationalism: A Threat to Religious Minorities

About the Author



M. Hamza Tanvir graduated from COMSATS University. He has a keen interest in international relations and regional politics.

India was once known to be the largest democracy in the world due to its religious and ethnic diversity. The country is home to almost 80 percent Hindu population, while religious minorities comprise 20 percent of its population. To deal with this religious diversity, policymakers of the country embraced secularism as the core principle of its government which advocates and



promotes religious tolerance and inclusivity. However, the country's history is replete with instances of persecution of its minorities.

BJP's rise to power in India has augmented Hindu nationalism

throughout the country, with attacks on religious minorities increasing with the covert support of the federal government since Modi's rise to the federal government in India. Hindu extremism has been nourishing in India for decades.

The first and most prominent and significant substantiation of this violent extremism was seen at the event of the independence of India and Pakistan. A huge number of Hindu and Muslim populations were forced to migrate across the border. This migration faced violent attacks from both sides. Almost a million Muslim refugees were killed and a huge number of women were raped.

Even after the independence, the Hindu extremism did not remain restricted to the Muslims of India only. Other religious minorities of the country, including Sikhs and Christians, also faced violent attacks as a result of Hindu nationalism. This demonstrates that the Nazi conscience, which expresses apathy towards the human rights of religious and ethnic minorities and a lack of respect for their lives, has been adopted by the Hindu extremists.

The most frightening factor in these violent attacks is the backing of the Indian state of the Hindu extremists. The political narrative of Hindutva condemns the past invasions of the subcontinent by Muslims. Their hostility towards Muslims predicates on this past invasion of the subcontinent. However, they also consider all religions other than Hinduism as foreigners, wanting to establish “Akhand Bharat” – a country exclusively for Hindus. Due to this narrative, Hindu nationalism has reached the level of violent attacks and rapes of religious minorities.

The Indian National Congress has always been the flag bearer of secularism in India and has also been responsible for the independence of the country. However, the party conducted one of the most violent operations, [Operation Blue Star](#), against the Sikh nationalists in 1984. The operation lasted for almost 10 days and resulted in the assassination of 554 Sikhs, including non-militants. The event entailed a series of attacks on the Sikh community and a genocide against them.

As per the [Human Rights Pulse](#) reports, almost 3000 Sikhs were murdered within the next 3 days of the operation. Moreover, the Sikh genocide continued till the 1990s which resulted in the assassination of tens of thousands of Sikhs of India along with the forced disappearance and kidnapping of a huge number of Sikhs. This resulted in the migration of numerous Sikh families to other countries.

The hatred against the Sikh community continues in India. Recently, a Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Najjar was killed in Canada. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, has blamed the Indian government for the killing of the Sikh leader. Moreover, it demonstrates the hatred of Hindu extremists and the BJP government towards the Sikh minority.



The BJP, the political party ruling the country, holds a horrific history of anti-Muslim attacks. The party and its militant wing, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), were behind the notorious Babri Masjid attacks. The incumbent Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, became the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001. Under his rule, hundreds of Muslims were killed in the Gujarat riots in 2002. Homes of almost 20000 Muslims were destroyed and over 150000 people were forced to migrate. This event brought Modi to prominence on national and international levels for the first time. The [United States banned Modi](#) from entering the United States citing law on violations of religious freedom formed in 1988 due to this Muslim massacre.

In 2019, the [Indian government revoked](#) the special status of Indian Occupied Kashmir which endangered the human security in the region and is deemed as a move to change the demography of the region by many analysts. This is another attempt by the Hindu extremist government against the Muslim minority. A host of incidents of mob lynching of Muslims and Dalits by [cow vigilantes](#) have been reported under the Modi government.

The Christian community is also bearing the brunt of the rising Hindu extremism in India. As per reports, almost [525 attacks on Christian communities](#) in India have been reported in India in the first 8 months of 2023. Around 249 churches have been destroyed within 36 hours by the Hindu chauvinists in Manipur state of India. Recently, a shocking video surfaced on the internet in which two Christian women were seen being stripped and paraded naked in Manipur after [being gang-raped](#). According to [the Genocide Watch](#), violent attacks against Christians occurred in 23 states in 2023.

Violent Hindu extremism is not limited to India anymore. The country's diaspora in other countries is also involved in attacking Muslims and Sikhs and spreading hate speech. Many Western leaders have used this Hindu extremism for their leverage. Donald Trump, in 2015, exploited Hindu extremism for his benefit in his election campaign by stating that India and Hindus would have a friend in the White House if he got elected. Modi also campaigned for Trump in the 2020 presidential elections.

Moreover, the Hindu extremists held demonstrations in the US and UK with posters of Modi and Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, in support of their disturbing acts of [demolishing the homes of Muslim activists](#). In 2022, a Canadian Hindu nationalist, [Ron Banerjee](#) stated that he supports the killing of Sikhs and Muslims in India because they deserved it. Gregory Stanton, who predicted the Rwandan genocide, warned the US Congress, [in a briefing](#), about a possible genocide in India.



Freedom in the World report by the Freedom House has also lowered the ranking of India to [partly free](#) from being “free.” Rising Hindu extremism will not only hurt the integration and unity of India but will also impinge the peace of the other countries of the world. Violent Hindu extremism can also intensify regional fractions on the Kashmir issue and other such matters. The United States and other flag bearers of human rights and equality should pressure the Indian government to ensure religious tolerance in the country. Otherwise, Hindu nationalism could destabilize the region and result in the genocide of religious minorities in the region.

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Israel's Dominance in Cyberspace: What Made It Possible?

About the Author



Fatimah Naeem is pursuing her Bachelor's in Peace and Conflict Studies from National Defence University Islamabad.

Introduction

With technological advancements growing at an unprecedented rate, numerous states in the contemporary world are seeking the best opportunities in cyberspace. A rather small state in the Middle East, Israel's tech sector has developed tremendously over the years and now stands on the global stage as one of the top five countries in the world in terms of its cybersecurity powers in cyberspace.



Known as the “[startup nation](#),” many private cybersecurity franchises have emerged from within Israel, ultimately giving it an edge over its neighboring countries. Being surrounded by nation-states that it deems detrimental threats, Israel's deterrence and protection have now become dependent upon cyberspace.

Israel's Progression

Initially, cyberspaces were used by the intelligence services of various states such as Russia, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom as tools of protection to secure sensitive federal information.

However, over the years, it was deemed and understood that industrializing this phenomenon for its civil counterparts would prove much more beneficial. Israel was one of the first countries to take this initiative and establish a multi-million-dollar startup to amalgamate the general public into the sector.

Israel has attracted [one-fifth of the global private cybersecurity investment](#) since 2019. Israel's technology sector has been thriving, and the Israeli government doesn't let the opportunity to boast about it escape. With a rapidly growing cybersecurity industry, [Advanced Technologies Park](#)—home to one of the biggest Israeli cyber franchises—commenced a unique scheme of exchange between private and public interests. It revolved around the Israeli cybersecurity philosophy, providing a theoretical as well as a practical framework.

Youth Recruitment

A country's youth is considered to be the backbone of its future affairs. Recognizing this fact, the Israeli government invested extensively in its human capital and even started [cyber education](#) in



its various educational institutes. Technologically empowering the youth and their academic pursuits has sown the seeds for Israel's future endeavors in cyberspace. Individuals with higher cognitive functioning are exposed to more challenging aspects of cyberspace

and are then recruited for military endorsement.

Upon completion of their military service, these individuals are merged within the different state-run infrastructures and are instructed to look for gaps to inculcate cybersecurity. This is indeed a unique perspective of protection against invasive and threatening attacks from neighboring countries while also providing better opportunities to the youth in the long run.

The Infamous Unit 8200



Israel is living under the constant worry of being surrounded by neighbors that the Israeli government classifies as “enemy” states. Understanding the need of the hour, massive amounts of investment in world-class hacking and artificial intelligence as instruments to compete in warfare were encouraged. This also assisted

in moving the older warfare mechanisms from traditional battlefields to cyberspace. This newly emerging theater of operations required tools for initiating defensive as well as offensive strategies.

[Unit 8200](#) is one of Israel’s best intelligence and technology units. It is considered to be a cluster of huge amounts of information contained within a singular enterprise. The workforce consists of both enlisted and career individuals, with veterans working within Israel’s infrastructure development. Individuals associated with Unit 8200 have casually dropped its name in conversations or statements regarding cyber defense and cyber offense. The whereabouts and activities of this particular unit have been kept confidential, but its involvement in the Stuxnet incident has been widely speculated.

[Stuxnet](#) is a hostile computer worm that had infiltrated and caused substantial damage to Iran’s nuclear program. It was determined by numerous analysts that the virus was deliberately programmed to attack the centrifuges in the Iranian nuclear plant. Even though the malicious computer worm has been associated with the cyber weapons of the US and Israel, both countries have denied involvement so far.

Similarly, the Pegasus spyware was one of Israel’s cyber inventions, developed, marketed, and licensed by the [Israeli NSO Group](#). It has the capability of hacking into phones and turning them into 24-hour surveillance devices.

Key Factors of Israel's Dominance

The contemporary world has adopted multi-polarity with the continuous advent of technology. Many powerful states such as the US, Russia, China, India, the UK, and the Korean Peninsula have funded massive amounts of the state budget into cyber warfare. In the race to compete with and attack neighboring countries or other powerful countries, many states completely ignore the aspect of their own security being breached.

Israel, playing its part with rather cunningness, has been [focused on developing its defensive strategies and identification of malicious computer viruses](#). There is an extremely thin line between cyber offense and defense, but the Israeli government has been able to navigate through it quite impressively.

As other states focus on infiltrating each other's systems, Israel has taken to its cyber security development, ultimately granting it a boost against dangerous breaches that compromise state confidentiality. This has also been beneficial in helping Israel's intelligence and military develop offensive cyber tools against different security measures taken by other states as well.

Surveillance of the Palestinian Territories

The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and the Palestinian Hamas have consistently bombed each other's territories since the independence of Israel in 1948. With populations on both sides threatening one another, Israel decided to take a step further and implant cyber surveillance throughout the Palestinian territory. Whether they are a threat or not, every Palestinian is kept under constant observation. Concealed in the disguise of cybersecurity, the Israeli military and government have initiated hacking as well.

[Eavesdropping on personal conversations](#) of Palestinian individuals and using the collected information as a means to facilitate themselves, the Israeli cyber units have expanded their intelligence network considerably over the years.



By constantly depriving the Palestinian populace of stable Internet connections, the Israeli government and military have established an impressive defense mechanism against neighboring threats. This mechanism of

utilizing cyberspace has invited investments worth millions into the small state.

Infrastructural Control

Israel, comprising an approximate population of 9 million, does not have enough manpower or labor resources to carry out the country's infrastructural functioning. This has ultimately led the government to seek cyber control in those departments. Farming, sanitation, construction, and many other aspects are being carried out under the continuously prospering tech industry of Israel.

With the mobility of control, some risks are also associated. In 2015, [Ukraine experienced a power grid shutdown](#) where its industrial control systems were simultaneously hacked. It evoked the dangers of cyber weapons, such as hacking, and how easy it is to be hacked. Another incident of that exact nature took place in [Germany where steel mills were blown up using a cyberattack in 2014](#). This dramatic transition of offensive strategies from mere data and privacy invasions to safety and life-threatening prospects has significantly changed the course of cyberwarfare and cyberweapons.

Conclusion

The concept of cyberspace is indeed a new one, and its demand is rising day by day. Israel has rolled the dice in its favor and has been able to reach the top of the cyber game. With easier access to the internet nowadays, many individuals, groups, and nations stand vulnerable to cyberattacks, but Israel, being one of the biggest cyber powers in the world, has steered clear of endangerments by technologically empowering its human capital. As the need for cyber security companies increases day by day, the crippling potential of cyberwarfare only continues to grow as well.

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IMF's Second Tranche: Economic Reforms and Challenges for Pakistan

About the Author



Aliza Nasir is currently pursuing a degree in International Relations from Kinnaird College for Women University.

IMF Agreement Overview

The IMF announced a staff-level agreement with Pakistan's caretaker government, paving the way for the release of \$700 million from the [\\$3 billion bailout package](#). This marks the second tranche, following the initial disbursement of \$1.2 billion in July 2023.

The [IMF-Pakistan deal](#) underscores the importance of Pakistan adhering to economic reforms outlined by the IMF, including revising the budget and phasing out subsidies.

Conditions Set by IMF

The conditions set by the IMF for Pakistan, associated with the disbursement of the second tranche of the \$3 billion bailout package, are centered around economic reforms and stabilization measures. Key conditions typically include:



- **Budget Revisions:** Pakistan is required to implement revisions to its national budget. This includes adjustments to fiscal policies, expenditure allocations, and revenue-generation measures.
- **Subsidy Phasing-Out:** The IMF urges Pakistan to reduce or eliminate subsidies, particularly in sectors like electricity and fuel. This aims to streamline government spending and enhance the efficiency of resource allocation.
- **Exchange Rate Policy:** IMF programs necessitate a shift to a market-determined exchange rate. Allowing market forces to play a larger role in determining the value of the national currency can contribute to a more stable economic environment.
- **Monetary Policy Tightening:** To combat inflation and anchor expectations, the IMF recommends and requires a suitably tight monetary policy. This involves adjusting interest rates and other monetary tools to manage inflationary pressures.
- **Structural Reforms:** Beyond immediate economic measures, the IMF emphasizes structural reforms. This includes improving governance in state-owned entities, enhancing the viability of the energy sector, and strengthening the banking sector.
- **Foreign Exchange Market Stability:** Measures to ensure a well-functioning foreign exchange market are an integral part of the conditions. This is crucial for addressing balance of payments pressures and eliminating foreign exchange shortages.
- **Climate Resilience:** With an increasing global focus on climate-related challenges, the IMF encourages and requires measures to enhance resilience to climate-related risks. This involves policies aimed at mitigating environmental impacts on the economy.
- **Debt Management:** Given Pakistan's substantial external debt, effective debt management is an essential condition. This involves strategies to manage and reduce the overall debt burden, ensuring sustainable long-term fiscal policies.

Economic Situation and Challenges

Pakistan has grappled with financial and political instability for years, with its central bank's foreign reserves dropping to less than \$4 billion. The country faces a daunting external debt of over \$20 billion in the current fiscal year. The Pakistani rupee has depreciated significantly, losing more than **50 percent** of its value against the dollar in a year.

Pakistan's economic challenges encompass a delicate balance between addressing immediate financial crises, implementing necessary reforms, and navigating external risks. The success of the IMF program and the country's economic stability hinge on sustained commitment to these measures amid a complex and dynamic economic environment.



The IMF's Perspective

The IMF's recent review acknowledges a nascent economic recovery in Pakistan, attributed to international support and improved confidence. However, the global lender cautions that the country remains susceptible to external risks such as geopolitical tensions and commodity price fluctuations. Efforts to build economic

resilience are deemed crucial for sustained stability.

Policy Decisions and Macroeconomic Fundamentals

Despite challenges, analysts highlight the Pakistani government's prudent policy decisions. These decisions include significant increases in energy prices and allowing the market to determine the value of the rupee. Such measures, in line with IMF requirements, have contributed to improvements in macroeconomic fundamentals.

Future Outlook and Political Stability

With national elections scheduled for February, the announcement of the vote adds a layer of stability to the political situation. Analysts suggest that the [caretaker government's](#) implementation of tough economic measures and essential reforms aligns with IMF conditions. The prospect of an elected government negotiating another package with the IMF hinges on continued adherence to economic conditions.

Conclusion

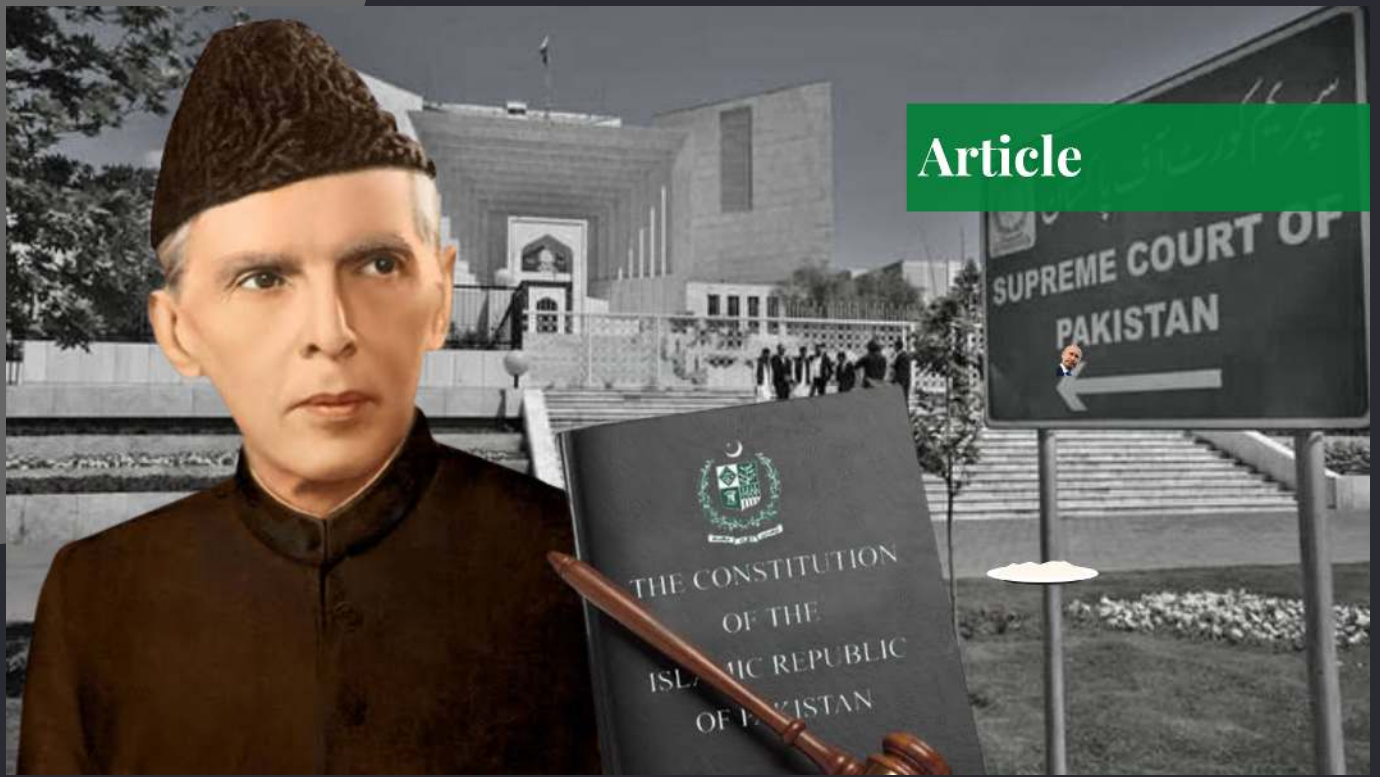
Pakistan's progress toward securing the IMF's second tranche reflects a delicate balance between implementing necessary economic reforms and addressing external challenges. The IMF's recognition of a nascent recovery underscores the importance of ongoing efforts to strengthen the economy. As Pakistan navigates its economic path, sustained commitment to reforms will be crucial for long-term stability and resilience against external risks.

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Yearning for Prosperity: The Only Constitutional Bloodless Solution to a Prosperous Pakistan

About the Author



Dr Sadiq Ali has more than 30 years of experience in civil engineering and infrastructure projects. He was the site engineer on his first project for constructing a 30 KM patch of National Highway in 1982. He's also taught mechanical technology at various universities.

Prosperity is an outcome of justice, and prosperity is only possible when justice is dispensed with in all its forms. Surprisingly, the Institutions that were responsible for delivering justice in Pakistan are **lost in translation**. We need to take a fresh look into the historic events when Pakistan was in the making and plans were being made to destroy Pakistan before its independence. I will highlight a few main issues below.

Lost in Translation because the father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948) spent most of his life in the United Kingdom. He arrived in London in 1892 at a tender age of 15 years. He was so clear about Islam and Prophet Muhammad SAWW's teachings that he selected Lincoln's Inn to learn and study law.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah later mentioned that he selected Lincoln's Inn to study law because the Institution had listed the name of Prophet Muhammad SAWW as the greatest lawgiver. This clearly explains why Mr. Jinnah wrote the future constitution of Pakistan and directly and indirectly mentioned numerous times that the Quran is our guide and that we have a constitution in the shape of the Quran.

The problem with the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan is that it has been written in the English language and at the time of partition, only the children of the "Friends of English" knew the language. In 1948, after the shahadat of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the judiciary had very few to understand the English language, and even today, they find it difficult to translate the spirit of the articles in the Constitution.

Another aspect is that the Quran is in Arabic language; both religion and the law have been misinterpreted over the years to bring Pakistan to present-day disaster. Henceforth, the Nation is Lost in Translation. When any academic like me tries to explain the rights of the citizens according to the Quran or the Constitution, neither the mullah nor the judiciary is ready to listen to any logical or scientific argument in support of the citizens of Pakistan.

Lost Tribe

Pakistan is also a classic case of a “**Lost Tribe**” and “**Betrayal**” and very often it seems that the nation is suffering from “**Stockholm Syndrome**”. A **lost tribe** because the independence of Pakistan brought the nation together with a grand migration associated with problems of resettlement and recognition as Pakistanis.

Until the father of the nation, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was alive, most of the direction was based on Islamic ideology, with the highest sense of humanity and associated rights.

It was such a strong bond that despite the distance of more than a thousand miles, **East Pakistan and West Pakistan were ONE PROVINCE**. That was a true Islamic state as everyone was a Pakistani with absolute equal rights as citizens. The Islamic State was so classic that on the inaugural ceremony of the State Bank of Pakistan on 1st July 1948, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah urged the government to introduce usury-free Islamic banking practices. Below is an extract from his speech:

“In order that the wheels of commerce and industry should run smoothly, it is imperative that the vacuum caused by the exodus of non-Muslims should be filled without delay. I am glad to note that schemes for training Pakistan nationals in banking are in hand. I will watch their progress with interest and I am confident that the State Bank will receive the co-operation of all concerned including the banks and Universities in pushing them forward. Banking will provide a new and wide field in which the genius of our young men can find full play.

I am sure that they will come forward in large numbers to take advantage of the training facilities which are proposed to be provided. While doing so, they will not only be benefiting themselves but also contributing to the well-being of our State. I need hardly dilate on the important role that the State Bank will have to play in regulating the economic life of our country.

The monetary policy of the bank will have a direct bearing on our trade and commerce, both inside Pakistan as well as with the outside world and it is only to be desired that your policy should encourage maximum production and a free flow of trade.

The monetary policy pursued during the war years contributed, in no small measure, to our present-day economic problems. The abnormal rise in the cost of living has hit the poorer sections of society, including those with fixed incomes very hard indeed and is responsible to a great extent for the prevailing unrest in the country. The policy of the Pakistan Government is to stabilise prices at a level that would be fair to the producer, as well as the consumer. I hope your



efforts will be directed in the same direction in order to tackle this crucial problem with success.

I shall watch with keenness the work of your Research Organization in evolving banking practices compatible with Islamic ideas of social and economic life. The economic system

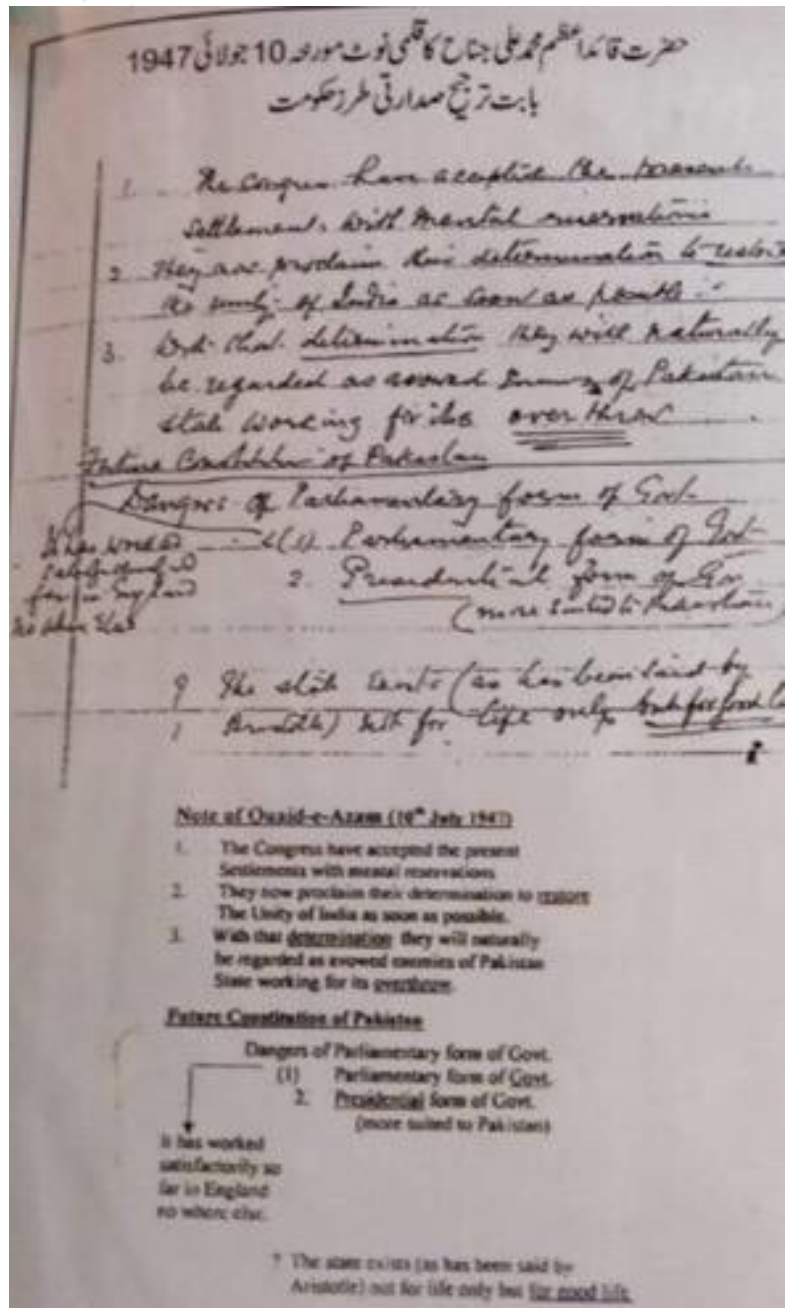
of the West has created almost insoluble problems for humanity and to many of us it appears that only a miracle can save it from disaster that is not facing the world. It has failed to do justice between man and man and to eradicate friction from the international field. On the contrary, it was largely responsible for the two world wars in the last half century.

The Western world, in spite of its advantages, of mechanization and industrial efficiency is today in a worse mess than ever before in history. The adoption of Western economic theory and practice will not help us in achieving our goal of creating a happy and contented people. We must work our destiny in our own way and present to the world an economic system based on true Islamic concept of equality of manhood and social justice. We will thereby be fulfilling our mission as Muslims and giving to humanity the message of peace which alone can save it and secure the welfare, happiness and prosperity of mankind."

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a true visionary leader who could see into the future, and he was so clear about everything that he even wrote the future Constitution of Pakistan that supported the **PRESIDENTIAL form of government and rejected the PARLIAMENTARY form of government**. That is why there was only **ONE** Governor General—that is a **PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM**. The other governor was the governor of the State Bank.

After his demise (that is still a mystery), everything was turned around by the POLITICIANS for an engineered disaster. The constitution that Muhammad Ali Jinnah wrote on 10th July 1947 was hidden until I discovered and retrieved it from the Archives Department and filed an appeal in the Supreme Court of Pakistan (CM Appeal 149/2022).

The engineered disaster and the betrayal were so evident that less than a year after the demise of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the counterfeit coins (Mr. Jinnah used this term for politicians of Pakistan who were actually the enemies (POLITICIANS) and the members of FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY} worked enough in following the engineered disaster that was feared, envisioned, and referred by Mr. Jinnah in the first three points written before he penned down the future Constitution of Pakistan (handwritten letter of Mr. Jinnah is attached with the letter to the present Justices the Supreme Court of Pakistan).



1. The Congress have accepted the present Settlement, with mental reservations
2. They now proclaim their determination to restore the unity of India as soon as possible.
3. With that determination they will naturally be regarded as avowed enemies of Pakistan state working for its overthrow

Future Constitution of Pakistan

Dangers of Parliamentary form of Govt.

It has worked satisfactorily so far in England & elsewhere

1. Parliamentary form of Govt.
2. Presidential form of Govt.
(more suited to Pakistan)

9 The state Exe's (as has been said by Aristotle) last for life only but for good life



Professor D. Schuemann in his address in Brooklyn, New York on June 3, 1949, observed (Bangladesh became a reality in December 1971 just 21 years after Pakistan's creation):

"The state of Pakistan, (which) recently came into being in South East Asia, is a state manifest with enormous pitfalls unique to itself. Its existence is vulnerable, as time will show...In less than half a century, the state will collapse because of its people—who are born with chains of slavery, whose thoughts cannot see love of a free country and whose minds cannot function beyond the scope of personal selfish ends...."

Stockholm Syndrome is defined as a psychological response wherein a captive begins to identify closely with his or her captors, as well as with their agenda and demands.

Pakistan is an agricultural country and most of its population is illiterate because the politicians by design did not spare any budget allocations for education. Therefore, while Articles 1 to 48 speak of the rights of the citizens to receive every essential service free of cost, the budget is only available for the perks and privileges of the politicians. Now, most of the illiterate Pakistanis and few beneficiaries consider these politicians as their saviors despite the fact that the politicians are making laws that are legalizing crimes.

Since the legislation supports the crimes of the politicians, the judiciary finds them "not guilty" for most crimes and the people still vote for them as they find the same corrupt politicians as their saviors.

Letter to the Justices of Pakistan

Following is the letter I wrote to the honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan and the honorable justices of Pakistan on 11th September 2023. Until today, when this article is being published, none of the judicial public servants have replied to me.

The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Qazi Faez Isa
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Sardar Tariq Masood
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Munib Akhtar
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar
The Hon'ble Justice Mrs. Justice Ayesha A. Malik
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Athar Minallah
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi
The Hon'ble Justice Mr. Justice Shahid Waheed
The Hon'ble Justice Ms. Justice Mussarat Hilali
(Supreme Court of Pakistan)
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11th September 2023

Copy to: The Citizens of Pakistan
The President of Pakistan
The Chairman Senate of Pakistan
The Federal Judicial Academy (FDA)
General Syed Asim Munir, The Chief of the Army Staff, GHQ Rawalpindi
The Chairman of National Defence University (NDU)
All Vice Chancellors of Universities through the University Grants Commission & Higher Education Commission
The Chairmen of All Political Parties through the Election Commission of Pakistan
All Press Clubs, Print & Electronic Media through Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA)

Subject: organisation of The Grand Debate on Jurisprudence & Constitution of Pakistan 1973: Analysis & Improvement of All Article to be In line with Articles 1-48: Amend Article 50 to Prosperity Based Tenure & Direct Election of the President and the Senate by the Citizens of Pakistan.

Ref: Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, Civil Misc Appeals 149/2022 & 150/2021, Jinnah's File of Future Constitution of Pakistan attached, and letter dated 7th August 2023

My Dear Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Qazi Faez Isa & all The Hon'ble Justices السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

I will be candid today, on the 75th Death Anniversary of the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, I am reminding you to implement Mr. Jinnah's will about the constitution of Pakistan that he wrote on 10th July 1947. CJP Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, I am sure you are very proud of your father who was very close to the Father of the Nation. Attached is a copy of the Constitution that Mr. Jinnah wrote himself and I am reproducing it below.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah wrote a prosperity-based Constitution on 10th July 1947 that was concealed from the Nation until I filed C.M. Appeal 149/2022 that is reproduced here verbatim. "Jinnah Files F-42 (W-3) (Dept of Archives): Note of Quaid-e-Azam (10th July 1947). (1) The Congress have accepted the present settlements with mental reservations. (2). They now proclaim their determination to restore the unity of India as soon as possible. (3). With that determination, they will naturally be regarded as avowed enemies of Pakistan state working for its overthrow. Future Constitution of Pakistan: (1) Dangers of Parliamentary form of Govt. (it has worked satisfactorily in England and nowhere else). (2) Presidential form of Govt., more suited to Pakistan. The State exists (as has been said by Aristotle) not for life only but for good life".

I and the Pakistani Nation will gauge your Jurisprudence Acumen based on the decisions you make. I wrote letters to many previous Chief Justices and now to you along with all the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. I kept reminding ex-CJPs to leave a better legacy; none honoured their Oaths. It's a shame that the World Justice Project Report 2022 ranks Pakistan's Judiciary at an embarrassing 129th position out of 140 countries in the world. Your legacy will not only reflect on you and be gauged here, but it will also be gauged on the DAY OF JUDGEMENT. Please remind all Judicial Public Servants that they MUST satisfy all the requirements of Article 208 (the Code of Conduct of Judges). If justice is delivered continuously, there will be

peace and prosperity in Pakistan. Following is the performance, according to the World Justice Project Report Rule of Law Index, of one of the MOST EXPENSIVE Judicial Public Servants for the last 8 years; is our judiciary justifying their salaries?

98/102 2015	106/113 2016	105/113 2017-18	117/126 2019	120/128 2020	130/139 2021	129/140 2022
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It is with deep regret and disappointment that I am writing this letter again.

This letter identifies the flaws and Conflicts of Interests in the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. It also provides solutions for a prosperous Pakistan; it's a shame that none of the judicial public servants I addressed have replied to me. It's a matter of national and public interests for which you all have taken an oath on the Quran.

All Pakistani governments, previous and current, have passed numerous Bills in Parliament; none for the betterment of Pakistan. The worst are the laws that allowed the passing of bills without approval by the President of Pakistan or without approval from the **Supreme Court, the Jurisprudence Advisor**. Hence, if the Parliament passed any Bills in violation to the foundation Articles 2A, 8, 25 and 227, the laws allowed the Bill to be promulgated. The question is, "what is the need of Article 184(3) and what is the interpretation of **"Judiciary is independent"** in **Article 2A** if the legislation for any law is not in line with jurisprudence?" Are Parliamentarians considered to be flawless legislators? There are no checks and balances for legislations to be in line with the Article 2A, the foundation Article. The Parliament is behaving like enemies of Pakistan by buying, selling, outsourcing, and privatizing profitable assets to foreign buyers for personal gains. Seventy-five years ago, Mr. Jinnah warned us of the mess this Parliamentary system will create; bringing the worst criminals to power and pitching the citizens of Pakistan against the Army. The concern of the Pakistani Nation is that the parliamentary system is so corrupt that it replaces one corrupt government with the other but never brings the right leadership to power as defined by the Quran and the Constitution. A Constitution is an evolving document, and it must evolve for the prosperity of the Citizens of Pakistan; this is well defined in the Article 2A.

The Constitution binds us to focus on Article 2A, Article 8 and Article 25; no laws or subsequent articles can violate the foundation articles in the Constitution according to JURISPRUDENCE. Especially the right of basic democracy which is denied in constituency-based elections, in which the value of vote is not equal for the citizens living in any two constituencies. This was the basic reason that Mohammad Ali Jinnah opposed the parliamentary form of government. Article 2A binds us to the procedures and rights given in the Quran, democracy, equal rights, & equal opportunities. The spirit of democracy is in equal rights for every citizen, especially the right of equal value of vote. An election based on constituencies is a bluff and defy this basic human right, which was identified by Mr. Jinnah in his constitutional directive. I have identified this flawed practice in the Civil Misc Appeal 149/2022 whose hearing has been denied until now.

Let me present to you the analysis of Article 8, the most important human rights' article: - Reproducing article 8 below: -

Article 8: Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of fundamental rights to be void.

(1). Any law, or any custom or usage having the force of law, in so far as it is inconsistent with the rights conferred by this Chapter, shall, to the extent of such inconsistency, be void.

(2). The State shall not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights so conferred and any law made in contravention of this clause shall, to the extent of such contravention, be void.

- a. Article 8 is very explicit in identifying that the lawmakers (legislators) can make laws that may be inconsistent with human rights, in such a case, any law made inconsistent with the human rights must be considered as void. It should have been pointed out by the Supreme Court or, whenever such a violation is pointed out by any citizen of Pakistan (like the way I have pointed out). The Supreme Court under Article 184(3) is constitutionally authorised and bound to make such laws void. According to the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, constituency-based parliamentary elections must be declared void by the Supreme Court under Article 2A & 8. In parliamentary democracy, the country is divided in constituencies; no two constituencies can ever have the same number of voters. In such a case, the constituency yields one member to the parliament, it does not matter how many voters live in that constituency, hence the value of votes of voters in different constituencies differ and is a violation of human rights and of democracy.

According to the existing Constitution, Constituency-based election is a Constitutional crime vide Article 2A & 8. Parliamentary system is an expensive method of government as it fails Cost-Benefit Analysis.

- b. Similarly, plea-bargain laws are promoting financial crimes instead of punishing the criminals. Civil Misc Appeal 150/2021 is also pending in Supreme Court of Pakistan and is against plea-bargain laws. Will anyone of you allow your servants to have the lion's share from your stolen property? If you do not address these two very serious violations of human rights, it will and is breeding frustration and crimes. Pakistanis may consider you party with the criminals if you do not take notice of such crimes committed by legislators. Please do not leave a bad legacy behind.

Early hearing of C.M. Appeals No 149/2022 & 150/2021 is the Only Constitutional Bloodless Solution for a Prosperous Pakistan. Mr. Umar Ata Bandial kept both the appeals referenced above pending. Before fixing any dates for the above-mentioned appeals, please coordinate with me as I am residing in the UK and will need time and coordination for my appearance in the Court. Or you can hear these appeals online.

I am an infrastructure planner who assessed the causes of Pakistan's poor economics and political situation that concluded in the following results and recommendations in line with the Article 2A: -

1. All articles in the constitution violating the Objectives resolution (Article 2A) must be improved by removing all the Conflicts of Interests from the Constitution & shifting to the presidential form of government as directed by Mr. Jinnah. Election in 90 days is not as important as requirement of democracy with equal voting rights.
2. **Privatising National Assets must be banned, they must be made viable rather than been sold.**
3. Prosperity and justice must be the essence of any constitution. Article 50 (a) be added to read "Every Government will have a probationary period of 90 days extendable to 180 days subject to economic uplift policies. If economy doesn't improve in 180 days, the government has no right to continue. In such a case, chance must be given to the runners up in the presidential elections (and so on). Prosperity must be gauged quarterly by international currency exchange rates. If the government cannot assure prosperity, they do not deserve to continue receiving salaries and enjoying perks and privileges at the public's expense.

Training of Judicial Public Servants

Around 60,000 cases are pending in the courts. It's an uphill task to decide these cases without sacrificing justice. My team can help you train judicial public servants in 90-180 days at the Federal Judicial Academy. We as Pakistanis feel responsible to help and suggest solutions to all the administrative and financial problems in Pakistan. This is only possible if you are ready to accept our help in making Pakistan prosperous.

I must remind you that your colleagues' performances are also your responsibility. As the head of the judiciary, you must train them in jurisprudence and science of law making.

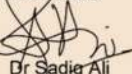
Let me remind you that Islam has taught the world the philosophy of justice and judicial systems. Let Muslims and Pakistanis not be the community to suffer due to failures of Judicial or "any" Public Services in Pakistan.

Through this letter, I am requesting everyone addressed here to initiate and organise a debate on the subject and urging you and all the Justices to listen to the subject appeals on priority to save Pakistan from the ongoing disasters. In the present crisis, I am requesting the FULL BENCH of The Supreme Court of Pakistan to please appoint a Caretaker President who can guarantee prosperity as defined in the Constitution and by Mr. Jinnah. I, with my Team, can help you solve this complex case; I am just a call away if you need my services. Suggested location for the debate if agreed is Federal Judicial Academy or the National Defence University.

Pakistan is in dire need of a CJP and the Judiciary with Jinnah's vision. We expect our learned Judiciary to rise to the occasion and save the Nation from the civil war. Follow the Constitution. Pakistan Zinda-o-Pa-indabad

Thanking you in anticipation

Allah Hafiz



Dr Sadiq Ali

[BE(Civil) NUST, Master in Infrastructure Planning (University of Stuttgart), Germany, PhD (Turbine Design) UK]

It must be known to all readers that replying to a letter to any public servant in the interest of the nation is the responsibility of every public servant. Somehow, with the values deteriorating in Pakistan, professionalism is also on the decline. It is quite possible that the lower staff of the Supreme Court of Pakistan are not confident to present this letter to the justices resulting in no response.

Conclusion

As a Pakistani citizen, I urge the judiciary and especially the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Qazi Faez Isa to list these cases for an early hearing as these are the most important cases in the history of Pakistan. I pray that these cases be live telecasted for every citizen to know what damage has been done by the legislators of Pakistan, remove the conflict of interests from the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, and 'uphold the truth that can set us free' as has been very rightly pointed out by you.

Pakistan Zinda-o-Paindabad

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The super QUICK QUIZ



Test your general knowledge!



Q1. What is the name of the treaty that aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy?

- A. **START Treaty**
- B. **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**
- C. **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)**
- D. **Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM)**

Q2. Which international organization is responsible for coordinating global responses to public health emergencies, such as pandemics?

- A. **World Health Organization (WHO)**
- B. **International Red Cross**
- C. **Doctors Without Borders**
- D. **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

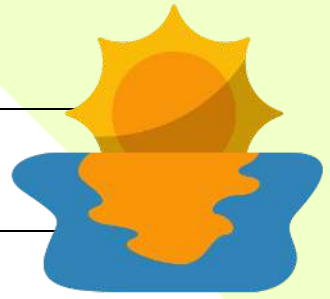
Q3. What is the "Belt and Road Initiative" launched by China?

- A. **Space exploration program**
- B. **Infrastructure and economic development project**
- C. **Cultural exchange initiative**
- D. **Environmental conservation effort**



Q4. What is the "One-China" policy in international relations?

- A. Recognition of Taiwan as a separate country
- B. Recognition of Tibet as an independent nation
- C. Recognition of China and Taiwan as one entity
- D. Recognition of Hong Kong as an independent territory



Q5. What does the term "soft power" refer to in international relations?

- A. Military strength
- B. Economic sanctions
- C. Cultural and diplomatic influence
- D. Cyber warfare



Q6. What is the primary purpose of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

- A. Economic cooperation
- B. Military defense and collective security
- C. Cultural exchange
- D. Human rights protection

Q7. Which planet is known as the "Red Planet"?



A. Venus

B. Mars

C. Jupiter

D. Saturn

Q8. Who was the first President of the United States?

A. Thomas Jefferson

B. John Adams

C. George Washington

D. Abraham Lincoln

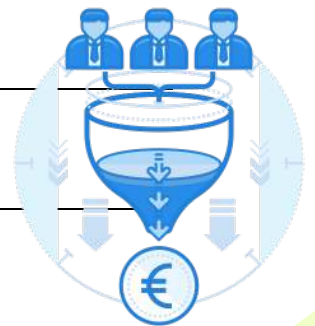
Q9. How many currencies are currently being used in the world?

A. 180

B. 110

C. 165

D. 170



Answers!

1. C) Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT is an international treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

2. A) World Health Organization

The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has six regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide.

3. B) Infrastructure & development

The Belt and Road Initiative, known within China as the One Belt One Road or OBOR/1B1R for short, is a global infrastructure & economic development project started by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in more than 150 countries and international organizations.

4. C) Recognition of China and Taiwan as one entity

The One-China policy asserts that there is only one sovereign state named China, encompassing both the mainland and Taiwan.

5. C) Cultural and diplomatic influence

Soft power refers to a country's ability to influence others through non-coercive means, such as culture, diplomacy, and values. It is contrasted with hard power, which involves military and economic coercion.

6. B) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 31 member states – 29 European and two North American.



7. B) Mars

Mars is the fourth planet and the furthest terrestrial planet from the Sun. The reddish color of its surface is due to finely grained iron(III) oxide dust in the soil, giving it the nickname "the Red Planet". Mars's radius is second smallest among the planets in the Solar System at 3,389.5 km.

8. C) George Washington

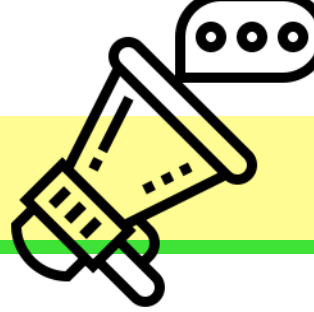
George Washington was an American military officer, statesman, and Founding Father who served as the first president of the United States from 1789 to 1797.

9. A) 180

Foreign currency is the main product in Forex trading and is used for travel money and currency exchange. There are 180 currencies in the world circulating in 197 countries. It's good to get the inside know-how on a country's currency before you set off.

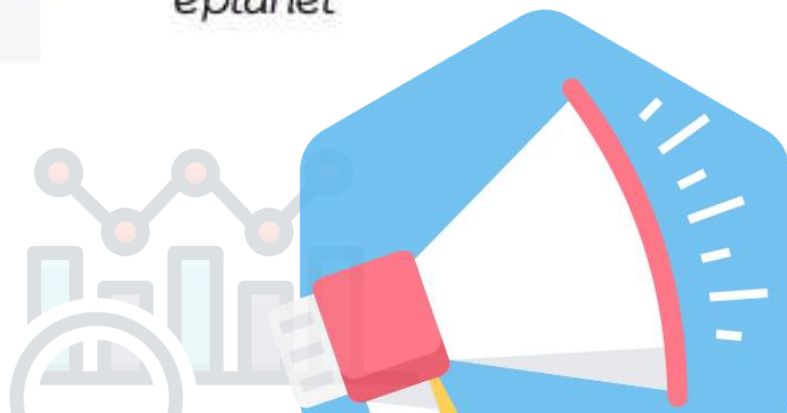


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