

The Economic Consideration of War against Terrorism, U.S Concern

The popular discussions on various aspects of the war against terrorism have become an important part of the foreign policy of various countries. The Post September 11, policy of the United States of America towards the world circumference with the war against terror at the central focus. Generally the discussion on the economic aspects of terrorism includes how to cut off the flow of financial resources to terrorist organizations, how to allocate budgetary resources to fighting terrorism and whether economic deprivation fosters international terrorism.

In this paper the economic aspect of war against terror mainly focuses on the allocation of the financial resources for the countries working as an ally in this campaign.¹ The U.S policy of economic assistance has also been influenced by this aim. The concern of Pakistan as a frontline actor in the post September 11 war against Afghanistan also forms a the main theme of this discussion. The strategic location of Pakistan having a shared border with Afghanistan seems to be an ideal place for the United States to wage a war against Taliban led interim government in Afghanistan.

The terrorists targeted the World Trade Centre as it was a symbol of American capitalism in one of its most visible forms i.e. the American financial markets. In the immediate response to the terrorist attack on World Trade Centre, the U.S led NATO alliance launched an attack on the Afghanistan. Though these attacks were an immediate response to these fundamentalist activities nevertheless, the United States has been engaging in a long term strategy to counter the rise of fundamentalism in the long run. The U.S war over Afghanistan was a type of representation to sympathize the concern of those victims of the Sept 11 attacks.

In this war the U.S had to form a strategic alliance which is conducive to its armed strength because the tough terrains Afghanistan were not feasible for the NATO forces to

launch an attack with against the fundamentalist forces. The U.S policy of economic aid to Pakistan is a part of this policy, which form s the main theme of this presentation.

Chemistry of bilateral relationships

The U.S- Pakistan relationship began during the cold war era. Pakistan was deeply conscious of the power disparity in the South Asian region and was looking for a catalyst to redress it. The heightened security concerns and need for economic development compelled Pakistan to reach out to the United States that was already looking for a supporter to check the expanding Soviet influence in this region.

To support Pakistan economically and militarily, the success of U.S led efforts to check the menace of terrorism was is critical that, it preempted any other concerns those United States had towards Pakistan like the issues related to democracy, nuclear proliferation etc. The radicalism promoted by the Afghan Jihad and co-opted by Pakistan not only rocked the region but radiated far beyond and blasted in the form of September 11 terrorist attacks.² The United States engagement with Pakistan continues to be deep and multifaceted. The U.S President George.W.Bush traveled to Pakistan in March 2006, for the first such presidential visit in six years and numerous high levels governmental engagements have ensued. These meetings aimed at expanding the strategic partnership in security and economic concerns. Thus, after September2001, Pakistan has deployed more than 70,000 of its troops to the Afghan borders and has launched more than thirty eight major successful operations to flush out foreign terrorists.³

U.S engagement with Pakistan in the War against Terrorism

After the Sept11 terrorist attacks the bilateral relations between U.S and Pakistan improved significantly. Prior to Sept 11, the bilateral relations were marked by discord and difference of opinion. On 22 Sept, 2001, the President of the United States George Bush lifted all remaining nuclear proliferation related sanctions on Pakistan along with India. 4

The U.S Congress passed the Law S.1465 P.L 107-57 in October 2001, which exempted Pakistan from all sanctions and financial debts.⁵ The government of Pakistan allowed the United States to conduct low level military operations in its Western Borders since April 2002.⁶ A large number of financial and technical aid have been put on to support Pakistan's engagement in the war against terrorism.

Some of the most important forms of assistance include:-

1. \$73 million in International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Emergency Response Funds (INCLE) that continue to be used in border security operations.
2. The U.S has supplied some technical support to which includes five used transport Helicopters, 750 short and long range radios and 434 vehicles which includes trucks, SUV and motorcycles to increase mobility.⁷
3. The Bush administration had forwarded another \$38 million in INCLE funds for 2004 financial year to further improve the effectiveness of support in war against terror.⁸
4. Pakistan received \$2.3 billion of economic assistance in 2002. In 2005, a total of \$3 billion and in 2006, the request has gone up to \$4.75 billion. In addition to this, the U.S Defense Department has rectified \$1 billion in 2007 for allies involved in the war against terrorism.⁹

The Pakistani authorities have cooperated with the United States in a number of ways like by granting logistic facilities, sharing intelligence and capturing and handing over terrorists.¹⁰ The members of 107 U.S Congress introduced several legislative bills related to Pakistan those were not discussed earlier like President lifted all remaining nuclear sanctions on Pakistan. The members of 108 U.S Congress debated much more on the issue of the economic assistance to Pakistan.¹¹

The 9/11 Commission in its recommendations, released on July 2004 identified the government of Pakistan as the best hope for stability in the United States to make a long term commitment to provide comprehensive support to Islamabad so long as the country itself is committed to combating extremism and to a policy of enlighten moderation.

Concerns in Domestic Politics of Pakistan

The concerns of democracy remain in controversy in since the decade of 1940's. Economic development, institution building, social change etc were certain serious challenges those remain an important concern for the successive governments of Pakistan. The U.S concern of economic aid for the containment of the terrorism has been perceived by the Pakistani authorities as a panacea for their development. Though this has serious repercussions in the internal political atmosphere. The anti- Americanism sentiments in Pakistan comprised of four issues. Firstly, general reaction to U.S might and power, secondly, America's present policy towards Islamic world, thirdly, relations between Islam and West and lastly, history of U.S Pakistan relations. The internal political scenario in Pakistan keeps on pressurizing the government of Pakistan not to become puppet onto the hands of United States, but the General Parvez Musharraf seems it necessary to carry forward the present entanglement with Bush

regime, as the economic aid being by the United States can fulfill Pakistan's economic requirement, which is very vital for its sustainability on the globe.

Conclusions

The U.S policy of economic assistance to Pakistan is one such issue which shows the intensity of U.S to establish its hegemony in the Asian Region and for this the campaign against terrorism is a very obvious platform.

The real concern is to focus the future potentials of the Asian Continent. But this focus only prepares a line of revolt against the United States from the Muslim world as well as from its internal front as in case of the current U.S stand over the nuclear programmed of Iran and its policy in Iraq. This may have a serious effect on its status of a world power.

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