

Makki, Muhammad and Yamin, Tughral. *Securing Pakistan: Making Sense of the Fundamentals of Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Violent Extremism.*

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Securing Pakistan; Making Sense of the Fundamentals of Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Violent Extremism by Muhammad Makki and Tughral Yamin is a careful illustration of the transformation that has occurred in the global security measures in response to the 9/11 attack on the United States. Both the domestic and transnational threats of terrorism gave rise to certain regulatory responses that varied from country to country and were highly heterogeneous. In particular, the book provides a comprehensive overview of the policy initiatives taken by Pakistan to counter terrorism. The authors divide these measures into the hard and the soft categories, and provide an extensive overview of the transition from intervention to prevention mechanisms in a diverse society like Pakistan. The first ever policy initiative in the counter-terrorism strategy was the National Internal Security Policy 2014-2018 that recognized the traditional as well as the non-traditional threats; however, in the aftermath of the 2014 APS attack, the National Action Plan (NAP) was devised as the new counter-terrorism strategy. NAP viewed terrorism as multifaceted and metamorphic in nature, thus requiring a more dynamic approach, which is why it identified and established the “National Counter-Terrorism Authority” (NACTA) as a major counter-terrorism institution. This was followed by the National Internal Security Policy (2018-2023) that focused on constructing an ideological response to violent extremism in the form of a national narrative.

Drawing on extensive field work; an in-depth analysis of terrorism through various theoretical frameworks; and a thorough study of Pakistan’s economic, religious, political, regional, and ethno-national conflicts, the authors identify three major developments in the approach to counterterrorism: the institutionalization of counterterrorism, the cooperation between the civilian and military administration, and the shift from hard to soft counter-terrorism approach. Part 1 of the book

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introduces and critically analyzes various counter-terrorism strategies. The deductive form and the chronological approach used to analyze the strategies, operations, judicial perimeters, and governmental policies is helpful for students and researchers alike. Part 2 of the book focuses on the theoretical and empirical explanations of the structural drivers of violent extremism in Pakistan. The authors' views regarding the horizontal inequalities and conflicts (e.g., Balochistan and FATA) reflect an unbiased perspective on the potential causes of terrorism. Part 3 elaborates what it means to opt for 'the soft way'; it forms a case for preventing and countering violent extremism empirically through de-radicalization and a counternarrative like Paigham-e-Pakistan that can help unify the nation against extremist agenda.

Securing Pakistan makes a case for effecting a transition from the "hard" to the "soft" measures of counter-terrorism and counter-violent extremism, which entail changing minds through educational measures, addressing the domestic conflicts and grievances e.g. FATA and Balochistan crisis, civil military cooperation, judicial reforms and the provision of justice, reforms in counter-terrorism institutions, post-conflict reconstruction and development, and the need for countering extremism with a national narrative like "Paigham-e-Pakistan". The challenges Pakistan faces with regards to terrorism are manifold and complex and the policy recommendations are long-term. To what extent can the policymakers, the institutions, and the organizations can work together to conceive and implement the soft measures is yet another challenge. Nevertheless, *Security Pakistan* is a major contribution in the body of work on counterterrorism measures and is a useful resource for students, researcher, and policymakers alike.

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