



FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN SOUTH ASIAN POLITICS

ORGANIZED BY POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



INTRODUCTION :

THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE LAHORE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN UNIVERSITY, LAHORE PROFOUNDLY CONDUCTED 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN SOUTH ASIAN POLITICS. THIS PARTICULAR AREA WAS CHOSEN DUE TO ITS VOLATILITY IN TERMS OF GEO-POLITICS AND PREVAILING ETHNO - NATIONALISTIC TENDENCIES IN THE REGION. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THIS CONFERENCE IS TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT AND ENHANCE THE EPISTEMOLOGICAL APPROACH OF EMINENT RESEARCHERS. THIS CONFERENCE IS THE MANIFESTATION OF VISION 2030 OF THE DEPARTMENT PROJECTING CAPACITY BUILDING ON THE PART OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO MEET THE EMERGING CHALLENGES OF MODERN TIME.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	HISTORY OF LAHORE	4
2	HISTORY OF LCWU	5
3	HISTORY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT	6
4	CONFERENCE CHAIR	7
5	CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR	8
6	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	9
7	DISTINGUISHED GUESTS	10-12
8	FOREIGN EXPERTS	13
9	CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS	14
10	SESSION MODERATORS	15
11	INCHARGE ABSRTACT REVIEW COMMITTEE	16
12	CONFERNEC HOST	17
13	THEMES OF CONFERENCE	18
14	ABSTRACTS OF ORAL PRESENTATIONS	19-68

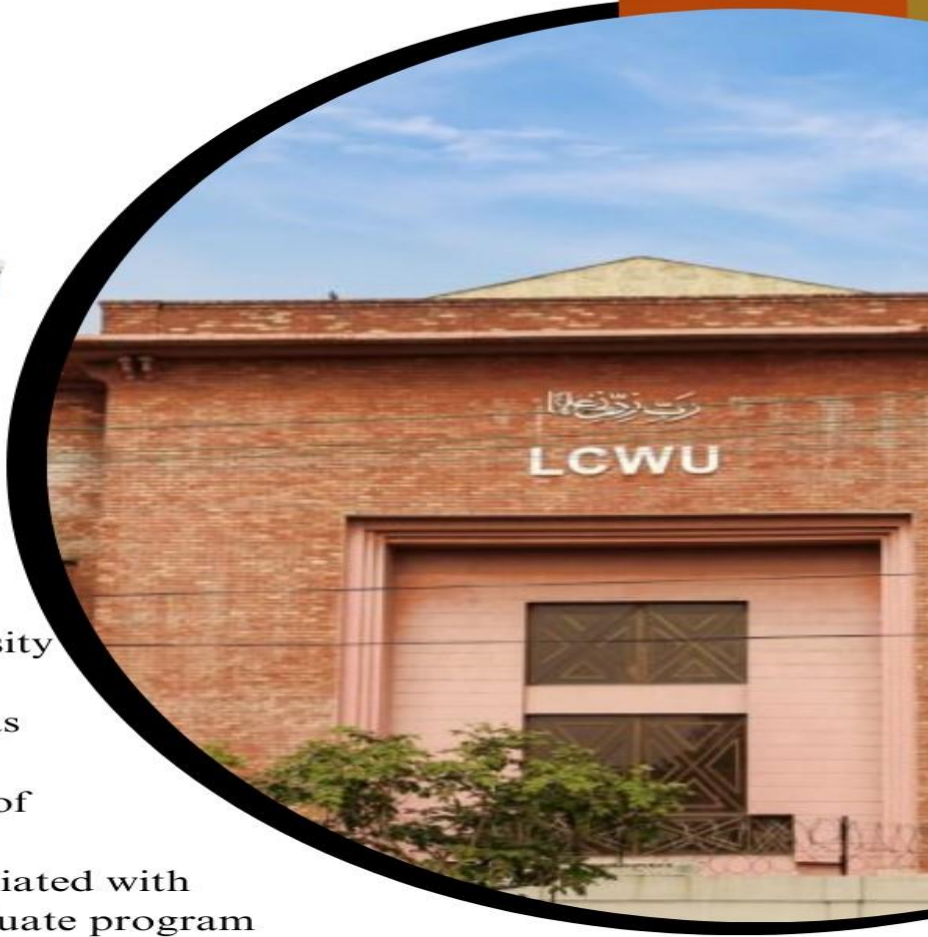


HISTORY OF LAHORE

PAKISTAN

Lahore is the largest city in Pakistan and the capital of Punjab province. Since Mughal Empire (16th century AD) it has been the center of social, cultural and educational activities. A variety of art galleries, museums, theatres, shopping arcades and modern high-rise buildings add to the character and charm of the city.

HISTORY OF LAHORE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN UNIVERSITY, LAHORE-PAKISTAN



Lahore College for Women University established in May 1922 as an Intermediate residential college, was originally housed in a building on Hall road, Lahore with strength of 60 (25 boarders) and staff members. LCWU by 1922 was affiliated with University of Punjab for undergraduate program in 18 subjects. By 1950, the college strength increased to 600 students and was shifted to the present building on Jail road. The year 1990, when administrative and financial autonomy was given to the institution, proved to be the turning point in the history of LCWU. On 13th August 1990, it was declared a Degree-Awarding Institution. The institution was elevated to the status of a Women University on 10th September 2002.

HISTORY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



The inception of the Political Science Department, LCWU can be traced back to the pre-partition period when Civics and Indian history were introduced in Lahore college. In 1979 postgraduate classes were started. Later the Master degree programs in Pakistan Studies and International Relations were also started in 1999 and 2005 respectively. Afterwards in 2005, Four Years BS Program in Political Science/ International Relation/Pakistan Studies and Ph.D. program in Political Science were initiated. In 2010 MS Political Science was also commenced.

Conference Chair



Prof. Dr. Shagufta Naz
Vice Chancellor

Prof. Dr. Shagufta Naz is worthy Vice Chancellor of Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. She is also serving as a Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Director Research of Advance Studies and Research Board, LCWU. She has produced more than 100 peer reviewed research articles in impact factor journals. Due to her remarkable achievements, she has received Meritorious Award in the Year 2019, by Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. Research and Productivity Award in year 2011, 2012, 2016 and 2017-18 by Pakistan Science and Technology, PSF, Islamabad.

Conference Co-Chair



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal
Dean
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal is Dean Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and Professor of Economics at LCWU. He has also served as a faculty member in the Department of Economics in the University of Punjab, Lahore. Where he had been honored for his remarkable career with the Best Teacher Award in the Department of Economics, University of the Punjab, Lahore, for the Academic Year 2005. He is the member Academic Council, Syndicate, Advanced Studies & Research Board and Board of Studies, LCWU. He has published numerous research papers in journals of international reputation.

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Hassan Askari

Prof. Dr. Hassan Askari Rizvi is a Pakistani Political Scientist and Defense Analyst. He had served as caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab, Pakistan in 2018. Currently, he is serving as Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Punjab, Lahore. He is awarded with Sitara-i-Imtiaz in 2010 for his remarkable services by the Government of Pakistan. He is noted for his work in Comparative Politics, Nuclear Weapons, and National Policy. His popular books: “Military, State and Society in Pakistan”, “The Military and Politics in Pakistan:1947-1997”, “Pakistan & Geostrategic Environment” and “Pakistan’s Foreign Policy

Distinguished Guests



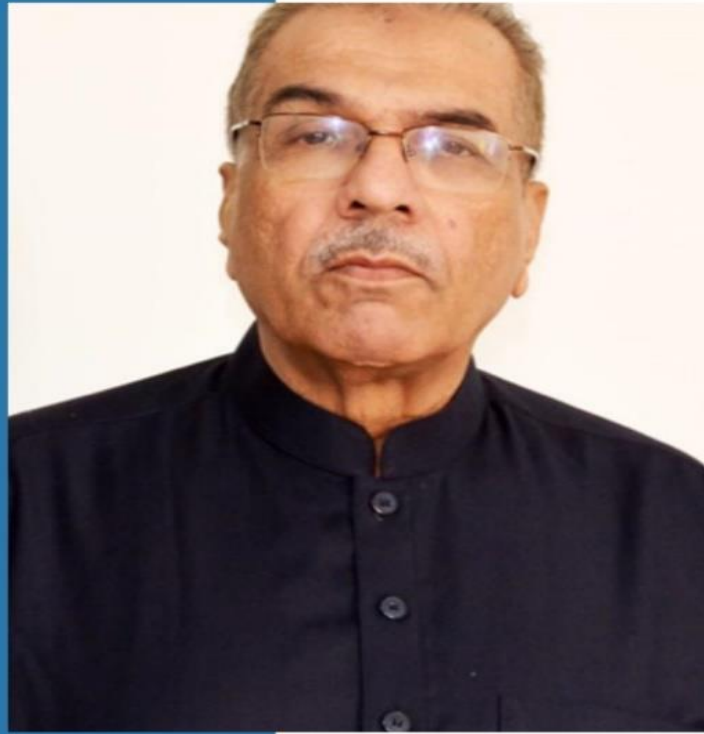
**Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor
Butt**

Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt is a Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) in University of Central Punjab (UCP), Lahore. He is an accomplished academician who has served as chairperson, Department of Political Science and Dean of Arts & Social Sciences at GC University Lahore. He is also a member of Board of Governor, Centre for South Asian Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore. He has a vast experience in the field of Teaching, Administration and Research. He is an expert of Human Rights, Social Development and Politics of Indian Ocean.



Prof. Dr. Iram Khalid

Prof. Dr. Iram Khalid is the Chairperson of Department of Political Science, University of Punjab, Lahore with having an experience of 23 years. She has published more than 100 peer reviewed research articles and has received national and international recognition in research, teaching and policy guidance. Dr. Iram has deep interest in National Security, Water Politics in South Asia, Nuclear Politics, Pakistan's Diplomatic Foreign Policy and Domestic Politics of Pakistan. She is the author of "Revisiting Pakistan's National Security Dilemma" and Counter Insurgency Challenge to State Security and Prosperity".



Mr. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami

Mr. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami is a Pakistani journalist and columnist who is the chief editor of Daily Pakistan newspaper. He appears on the talk show Nuqta-e-Nazar on Dunya News. He was President of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors in 2002. He is the founder of Zindagi Magazine and Qaumi Digest. His columns are published in Daily Dunya and Daily Pakistan every Sunday including political and country's situation. His publishing include Ek Shakhs Ek Karawan, Badbaan Jild

Foreign Experts



Dr. Christina Horvath from Department of Politics Languages and International Studies. She is a reader in French Politics, leader of the EU-Funded Disputed Territories and Memory Project. Dr. Horvath is pleased to deliver pre-conference lecture at LCWU.



Dr. Joanna is the Professor in the institute of Sociology , University of Warsaw, and Chairperson of Association of Memory Studies. She thoroughly enjoyed delivering pre-conference lecture at LCWU.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS



Dr. Aisha Shahzad
Head of Department



Dr. Sadia Mahmood Falki
Assistant Professor

SESSION MODERATORS



Dr. Saima Butt
Assistant Professor



Ms. Fazilat Razzaq
Lecturer



Ms. Rabia Ramzan
Lecturer



Ms. Numra Humza
Lecturer

INCHARGE ABSTRACT REVIEW COMMITTEE



Dr. Maryam Azam
Assistant Professor
International Relations
Department, LCWU

CONFERENCE HOST



Ms. Shanza Noor
Lecturer
Political Science Department

**CONFERENCE EVENTS
DAY 1**

- 10:00 AM Arrival of Guests
- 10:15-10:30 AM Seating of Guests
- 10:30-10:35 AM Recitation
- 10:35-10:45 AM Dean Welcome Address
- 10:45-11:05 AM Key Note Speaker
- 11:05-11:25 AM Distinguished Guest Speaker
- 11:25-11:45 AM Distinguished Guest Speaker
- 11:45-11:55 AM Vote of Thanks
- 11:55 AM Group Photo
- 12:15 PM Refreshment
- 1:30-4:00 PM Sessions

Theme 1: Post Modernist Discourses in South Asia

Theme 2: Foreign Policy and Narrative Building in South Asia

Theme 3: Political and Socio-Economic Challenges in Pakistan

DAY 2

10:30 AM-1:00 PM SESSIONS

Theme 1: Ethnicity and Nationalism in South Asia

Theme 2: Challenges to Democracy in Pakistan

Theme 3: Women, Religion & Minority in South Asia

Theme 4: Strategic Competition in South Asia

Department's Core Values

- **Connectivity:** Integrative approach among students and teachers
- **Development:** Professional growth of faculty and intellectual growth of students
- **Empowerment:** Inculcating independent decision making ability among students



Contemporary Trends in South Asian Politics



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

JANUARY 30-31, 2024

ORGANIZED BY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Department of Political Science

The vision of the department is given a new orientation in the age of digitization. It is presumed to equip our students with analytical skills based on causation and retrospection to meet the challenges of modern time. It is viewed to provide quality education in accordance with SDG-4 set by United Nations, profoundly to impart the best comprehension of enigmatic national and international politics. Faculty promotes new techniques including webinars, focus-groups and symposiums to enhance students skills. Our BS, MS and Ph.D programs envisage continuing with the spirit of viability and sustainability in the field of knowledge.

**Message From Dean
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal**

I am Delighted to welcome you in this International Conference on "Contemporary Trends in South Asian Politics". This conference is organized by our Department of Political Science. I am confident that the conference will provide platform for disseminating knowledge and sharing ideas.

**Message from Conference Secretary
Head of Department (Political Science)
Dr. Aisha Shahzad**

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all keynote speakers, distinguished guest speakers and participants to our international Conference. I encourage the participants to actively participate in various sessions, engage in dialogue and network with fellow attendees. I am looking forward to the impactful discussions and outcomes that will emerge from this gathering.

Session Chair

- Dr. Rehana Hashmi
- Dr. Asma Awan
- Dr. Sobia Naseer
- Dr. Mohd. Younus
- Dr. Rana Ejaz
- Dr. Fouzia Ghani
- Dr. Shabnum Gull
- Dr. Zainab Ahmad
- Dr. Ayesha Safdar

**Conference Chair
Prof. Dr. Shagufta Naz**



**Conference-Co-Chair
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal**



**Key Note Speaker
Prof. Dr. Hasan Askari**



**Distinguished Guest Speaker
Prof. Dr. Khalid Manzoor**



**Distinguished Guest
Prof. Dr. Irum Khalid**



**Distinguished Guest
Dr. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami
Journalist & Columnist**



Our Faculty



ABSTRACTS

Nepal's Geo-Strategic Concerns in the Evolving Regional Security Landscape

Dr. Agnieszka Kuszewska - Bohnert

Associate Professor, Jagiellonian University, Institute of Middle and Far East, Poland.

Abstract

The Paper aims to discuss but also reach beyond the common narrative that focuses on various aspects of Sino-Indian interactions and neglects the role of smaller states or portrays them only through the prism of regional power rivalry. The international perception of Nepal is often restricted to its geographical location, where, 'sandwiched' between India and China, it is viewed as an actor without agency, dominated by powerful neighbors. The key objective of the research is to contribute to the discourse on small powers in the evolving international security landscape while investigating selected elements of Nepal's strategy and its potential role in the region. The theoretical approach adopted in this study is anchored in the shelter theory of Baldur Thorhallsson, which describes the ways small states try to compensate for their structural weaknesses, and Tom Long's three-level concept of enhancing the capabilities of small states. They are re-examined and adapted to regional conditions and a particular case study of Nepal.

Keywords: China, Geo-Strategic, India, Nepal, Security, South Asia.

Patterns and Processes of Regime Oscillations in South and Southeast Asia

Anish Mishra

An expert analyst on South & Southeast Asian Domestic Politics & Foreign Policy. Ph.D. candidate at the Institut für Politische Wissenschaft (IPW), Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of Heidelberg University, Germany. anishmisrasg@hotmail.com

anishmishra@uni-heidelberg.de

<https://www.uniheidelberg.de/politikwissenschaften/personal/croissant/mishra.html>.

Abstract

This paper aims to construct a dynamic, non-static theoretical model elucidating the causal process chain of regime oscillations in South and Southeast Asia. Utilizing case studies of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Malaysia, the study seeks to provide a rigorous, generalizable causal explanation of regime oscillations amenable to deductive theory-testing and falsification. The central theoretical premise posits that elite disunity serves as a pivotal causal mechanism engendering regime oscillations in Pakistan and Bangladesh, while elite unity operates as a potent causal mechanism fostering regime staticity in Malaysia from 1957-2018. Employing deductive analysis, the "new-elite paradigm" proposed by Field, Higley and Burton (1990) will be scrutinized to validate the presence and functionality of elite disunity as a causal mechanism in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and elite unity as a causal mechanism in Malaysia. Subsequently, the study will adopt an inductive approach, employing the theory-building variant of process tracing method outlined by Beach and Pedersen (2019) alongside comparative process tracing (Bengtsson and Ruonavaara, 2017). These methodological tools will discern the independent variables responsible for activating the causal mechanism of elite (dis)unity, as well as other antecedent and subsequent causal mechanisms underpinning regime oscillations and staticity. By transcending theoretical divides and addressing the lacunae, this paper bridges the schism between elite-centric and structuralist paradigms in transitology studies. Investigating the Asian, commonwealth, Muslim-majority contexts shared by Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Malaysia, this study presents a compelling research inquiry necessitating a robust causal explanation for their divergent regime outcomes. The resulting novel theory provides a generalizable framework for comprehending the causal process chain of regime oscillations in other comparable cases.

Keywords: Bangladesh, Regime, Oscillations, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Asia, Southeast Asia.

Analyzing the Governance Challenges in Implementing Climate Change Counter Measures: A Comparative Analysis of South Asian Nations

Omer Khawar

Lecturer, Political Science, Higher Education Department, Government of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

Ms. Marriam Mubashar

Lecture, Department of Political Science, Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Climate change poses a critical threat to global sustainability, with South Asian nations particularly vulnerable to its impacts. This study delves into the governance challenges associated with implementing countermeasures against climate change in South Asian nations. Understanding the intricacies of governance is crucial for effective climate action, as it influences policy formulation, implementation, and overall responsiveness to environmental challenges. The primary research objective is to conduct a comparative analysis of the governance challenges faced by South Asian nations in implementing climate change countermeasures. Specific objectives include scrutinizing policy frameworks, assessing institutional capacities, and evaluating the role of political will in shaping climate action. The study seeks to identify common challenges and variations across countries, providing insights for tailored policy recommendations. A qualitative approach has been employed, by comprehensive analysis of existing literature, policy documents and institutional structures of climate related indicators. Comparative case studies have also been conducted for South Asian states including Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh to capture diverse governance models. The research design ensures a comprehensive understanding of governance dynamics, blending in-depth qualitative insights with quantitative data for a nuanced analysis. The preliminary findings suggest that governance challenges in South Asia are multifaceted, encompassing policy coherence, institutional capacities, political will, and community engagement. Disparities in resource allocation and varying degrees of international collaboration also emerge as critical factors influencing the efficacy of climate countermeasures. The research highlights the importance of addressing these governance challenges for sustainable and equitable climate action in the region. Therefore, this comprehensive analysis provides a foundation for informed decision-making, emphasizing the need for context-specific policies to enhance climate resilience across diverse South Asian states. The research sets the stage for ongoing exploration into evolving governance paradigms for climate action. The findings contribute to the discourse on effective governance strategies for climate resilience, guiding future policy initiatives in the South Asian context.

Keywords: Climate Change, South Asian States, Governance, Policy framework, Climate, Countermeasures and Sustainability.

The Xinjiang Factor in China's Afghanistan Policy: Assessing Key Interests and Challenges

Dr. Shahid Ali

Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

With the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021, there is a real threat that Afghanistan may once again become an epicenter of Islamic militancy and transnational terrorism in the region and beyond. The de-Americanization of security in Afghanistan has created opportunities for transnational jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKAP), Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) to revivify and reinforce their organizational and operational capacities. For regional countries, including China, Russia, Pakistan, and Central Asian Republics, dealing with the Taliban and preventing terrorism from destabilizing the region has become a matter of immediate concern. In particular, China is increasingly concerned about the possibility of terrorism and/or violent extremism spilling over from Afghanistan into Xinjiang. Beijing worries that cross-border links between the Uyghur militants in Afghanistan and separatist Uyghurs in Xinjiang will undermine China's territorial integrity and sovereignty and its aspirations of becoming a superpower. In this context, Beijing wants to ensure that the Taliban regime prevents Uyghur militants and other Islamic fundamentalist groups from undertaking attacks in Xinjiang and other parts of China. To achieve this overarching objective, Beijing has devised a multi-pronged strategy for engaging the Afghan Taliban. This paper analyses China's bilateral and multilateral diplomacy in the post-US withdrawal Afghanistan. It argues that Beijing's interests in Afghanistan are limited to preventing terrorism and militant activity from undermining China's domestic security and/or disrupting its consequential investments in CPEC and BRI in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. However, given the intricacies of the situation in Afghanistan and Beijing's inadequate knowledge of and influence in Afghanistan, China will continue to face challenges when it comes to convincing the Taliban to act against the Uyghur militants and other transnational terrorist groups operating from Afghanistan.

Keywords: Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, ETIM/TIP, IS-K; Taliban, Uyghur, militants, terrorists.

Educating Youth for Sustainable Growth and Its Impact on Climate Change

Dr. Saima Butt

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

South Asia is currently being hit by rains brought on by climate change. The governments of these countries have been calling on members of the international community to pay greater attention to the challenges of climate change. The torrential downpours in Pakistan and India have caused flooding in a number of areas, damaging acres of agricultural land, relocating people, and drowning livestock. Crops perished and fertile soil became infertile, resulting in food price rise and an overall decrease in their availability. The global community has begun to shift its energies to limiting any further damage caused by the climate, therefore the Paris Summit 2015 was one of the attempts. What must to get done across South Asia is to train our youth about what they need to do to ensure beneficial awareness of the effects of climate change. The purpose of this study is to gain insight into the critical role from youths in curbing and correcting the harmful effects of climate change. Research type will be descriptive and analytical combining primary and secondary data to support the argument. Methodology will be quantitative to analyze data.

Key Words: Climate Change, Floods, Displace People, Draught, Educating Youth.

Climate Change and Counter Measures by Pakistan's Government

Fakhra Mujahid

Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Rida Tariq

Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the social implications of climate change in Pakistan and to identify the most crucial government responses to the issue. Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to climate change; there are frequently significant floods and times of intense rain there, which have a detrimental effect on the country's infrastructure, agriculture, and human life. These climate-related effects have a significant impact on many facets of society, including social justice, health, food security, and displacement. The study involves a thorough investigation of past extreme weather events, scientific studies, and reports to determine the effects of climate change in Pakistan. Additionally, it examined government programs and activities for reducing and preparing for climate change. Encouragement of renewable energy, reforestation, energy efficiency, climate-resilient agriculture, public awareness campaigns, and international collaboration are a few examples of government activities to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Pakistan needs to maintain the specified strategies while guaranteeing the active participation of all stakeholders in order to effectively address climate change. Building a more resilient and sustainable future will also depend on boosting investments in climate change adaption strategies and encouraging international cooperation.

Keywords: Climate Change, Counter Measures, Awareness Campaigns, International Cooperation.

Cyberwarfare: Nature of Indo-Pak Conflict in South Asia

Fakhra Mujahid

Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Rida Tariq

Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The 21st century has seen a transformation in conventional warfare and the range of threats due to the development of new technologies. It has portrayed the digital frontier as a brand-new area of concern for national security. Until now, most studies and observations of cyberwarfare have been conducted in the context of state-on-state conflicts, in which one state uses digital technology to purposefully interfere with, alter, reduce, or completely destroy another state's information and communication systems in order to achieve military, political, or strategic goals. The chance to target each other's cyberspace is seen as a possible advantage by nuclear-armed adversaries India and Pakistan. The frequency of minor cyberattacks, ranging in severity and scope, is on the rise between the two adjacent countries. Examples include the proliferation of digital could have a larger impact on regional security, possibly leading to the instability of nearby vandalism and the spread of narratives on social media platforms. A cyberattack on vital infrastructure nations and the emergence of a security crisis. Cyberattacks have the potential to quickly escalate tensions between India and Pakistan, the two primary players. Furthermore, a significant cyberattack can have detrimental effects on vital infrastructure, including financial institutions, telecommunication networks, and power grids. These effects might cause broad disruption, impacting millions of people and businesses around the region. The rapidly advancing Indian offensive cyber capabilities and its strategic cooperation with US and Israel threatening Pakistan's cybersecurity. Indo-Pak cyber warfare has redefined the nature of warfare in South Asia by introducing new threat perceptions in the political and military realm, which poses the region with a greater risk of warfare than conventional threats.

Keywords: Cyberwarfare, Indo-Pak Conflict, South Asia.

India-Pakistan Traditional Rivalry: Nuclear Competition as Flash Point of South Asian Security Milieu

Dr. Nadia Zaheer Ali

Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The South Asian region (sub-region of Asia) is largely centered on India and surrounded by Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka; has received a lot of global attention in recent years. Due to the complicated nature of territorial disputes, religious extremist tendencies, the significant role of non-state actors in regional conflicts; the territory has been distinguished by a complex interplay of safety, financial, and political variables that reinforce each other. The degree of regional security of South Asia is primarily & essentially interdependent due to amity, enmity relationship between Pakistan and India, as both have a strong military and nuclear capability. They dominate the South Asian security complex. It has been observed that other countries have mere problems with one another as compared with the security issues between India and Pakistan. Both India and Pakistan are prime stakeholders that shape the nature & direction of security in the South Asian region. This research aims to study how and in what ways, India and Pakistan's traditional rivalry and their threat perceptions towards each other delineate the regional security milieu. It also expounds on the key dynamics of the Regional Security Complex in South Asia in terms of Nuclear Issue.

Keywords: Arms Race, India, Kashmir, Militancy, Nuclear, Pakistan, Regional Security.

Interplay of Language, Power and Political Discourses in Foreign Policy of Pakistan: Case Study of Speech Diplomacy of Imran Khan

Dr. Sadia Mahmood Falki

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Saareena Asrar

Undergraduate Student, Department of Political Science, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The practice of populist narratives in foreign policy has remained a substantial feature of Pakistani politics as political and state elite are used to employing such political discourses to attract masses for political and electoral advantages. However, these political discourses originating from populist narratives are not just confined to domestic politics but developed consequences for foreign policy choices of Pakistan. The former Pakistani cricket player and politician; Imran Khan is known for his charm and straightforward talk around the globe. He has always remained the center of attention not only in Pakistani media but got tremendous coverage on international level. Many of his forthright statements as Prime Minister of Pakistan provoked widespread reactions, affecting Pakistan's relation with certain countries, and indicated the altered directions of Pakistan's foreign policy while bringing hardships for Pakistan as well as new opportunities. The case study examines the selected speeches of former prime minister of Pakistan; Imran Khan (August 2018-April 2022) at international forums to assess that how populist narratives have been pronounced in his speeches at international forums through argumentation discourse. This paper primarily focuses on the relationship of public oratory of Imran Khan and assertion of diplomatic narratives of Pakistan. The underlying study is qualitative in nature and primarily critical discourse analysis has been incorporated to extract the meaning, intention and direction of Imran Khan's selected speeches, structure and strategy of talk within the political and strategic context of Pakistan's foreign policy and its resultant outcomes.

Keywords: Diplomacy, Foreign policy, Imran Khan, Pakistan, Populism, Political Discourse.

Global Alliance and Sovereignty of Nation States: A Study Based on the Theory of Public Opinion in Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Younis

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan.

Fazila Sehbai

M Phil Student, Department of Political Science, Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan

Abstract

In the contemporary international politics, global world order is primarily a system of dependence between the different strata of nations based on their development goals. This state of dependency oftentimes serves as the root cause of several challenges for countries largely related to the way, these state actors pursue their national interests. The alliances among nations can form a disruption within the decision making processes and policies at both local and national levels through foreign influence. This underlying study looks into the relationship between global alliances and the sovereignty of nation-states, with a specific focus on Pakistan while utilizing the lens of public opinion theory. Furthermore, this research provides an analysis of the public opinion in Pakistan; a former/post colonized country with regards to state sovereignty. The methodology used in this research is quantitative in nature. However, the primary data is collected through survey; a quantitative data collection tool to secure the sample size of 50 from general public. This study explicates that the public perception of a state being formerly colonized is generally more inclined towards preserving the sovereignty of their nation, being a symbol of legitimacy. The findings of research is built over the general public perception theory towards sovereignty.

Keywords: Global Alliance, Nation States, Theory, Pakistan, Public Opinion, Sovereignty.

The Changing Role of Military in the Politics of Pakistan: Nation Branding and Public Diplomacy

Maleeha Rai

PhD Scholar, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The Inter-Services Public Relation (ISPR); the public relations wing of the military establishment is tasked with managing and shaping the narrative surrounding Pakistan on a global scale. Pakistan's adversaries specifically its traditional rival India have been disseminating misinformation and false news to harm Pakistan's image. Subsequently, Pakistan was viewed as a state that supported terrorists. Through various initiatives, the ISPR endeavored to project a positive and nuanced representation of the country while highlighting its rich culture, accomplishment and contributions. This study explores the variables of nation branding and public diplomacy employed by ISPR to influence international perceptions, counter negative stereotypes and promote a favorable image of Pakistan through its involvement in the production of films, dramas and songs. This research explicates that ISPR has adopted the strategy of narrative building to reflect its commitment to showcase the true essence of Pakistan's culture, heritage and values to both national and international audiences.

Keywords: ISPR, Military, Narrative building, Nation Branding, Pakistan, Public Diplomacy, Public Relations.

Clash of Corridors and Strategic Competition in South Asia: Prospects and Fallout for Pakistan

Salma Amjad

Ph.D Scholar, Pakistan Study Center, Punjab University Lahore, Pakistan.
Instructor Pakistan Study, Virtual University of Pakistan.

Abstract

The underlying study argues that political reorganization of economic resources and establishing economic zones in South Asia are part of strategic competition between the key power players of global world order. The unprecedented emergent economic interdependence between the state actors though some of them are seemingly adversaries in traditional sense in a multi-polar world order has lessened the probability of wars. This led to change in the nature of contestations of state interests and respective means to accomplish these other than bilateral state relations and alliance formation. The politics of economic corridor in South Asia aiming at connectivity is characterized by establishing governing institutions and agencies in the region to expand state power through infrastructure and logistic networks. The announcement of India-Middle-East-Europe-Economic Corridor (IMEC) from the platform of G20 intensifies the notion of strategic competition through the means of connectivity. This United States, European Union, India, Saudi Arab and UAE led corridor is apparently intended to link Asia and Europe while bringing stake holders from Middle East however this move has been viewed as a counter strategy to CPEC and assertion of Chinese power in the region. The reactionary nature of corridor strategy can augment the challenges for states like Pakistan who is before now occupied with the task of maintaining intricate balance between United States and China. The research intends to analyze the policy options, issues as well as fallout for Pakistan in the backdrop of an evolving global rivalry centered in Asia. The underlying study aims to address following research question while incorporating exploratory approach. How the politics of infrastructures in South Asia is reflection of global competition between the key power players centered in Asia? Why strategic interests of key power players are being contested by these economic corridors in South Asia? How the clash of corridors will impact comparatively economically weaker states of the region like Pakistan?

Keywords: CPEC, Pakistan, China, Strategic, Economic Corridor, United-States.

Role of Geo-Economics in Shaping Global Power Contestations: An Overview of Chinese Infrastructural Policies in South Asia

Rabia Ramzan

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The lack of economic resources and technical expertise for the infrastructure building in developing nations has been a subject of great importance as the shortfall of these hampers the abilities of developing states to pursue developmental goals in an efficient manner. Developing states also emerged as prospectus markets for the consumption of development related ideas, furnished goods and service industry of economically powerful states. This led to shape a new dimension of clash of interests between China and United States in Asia which has repercussions on the growth of Asian states. The global designs of primacy of United States compel her to contain China's role in Asia while constraining its regional outreach. The substantial part of China's interactions towards developing States in Asia is comprised of geo-economic approach and politics of infrastructure. This increasing Chinese economic influences alerted many western states especially United States as they tend to believe that China's economic and infrastructure politics is leading to an acute debt trap for developing states which would eventually empower China to politically control these states. In the backdrop of United States policy in Asia pacific, its strategic partnership with India and strategic ties with Japan, China's economic expansion in Asian region is involving multiple dynamics like global north-south divide, emergence of multi polar world order and most importantly the reinforcement of contrasting versions of development and interdependence of West and East. This study focuses on Chinese strategies of infrastructure building in Asian developing states within the border context of its global design and counter strategies of United States. The study indicates the information regarding new established institutions and their development projects in developing nations. Asian Infrastructure development Bank has approved and initiated development projects for feasible infrastructure growth. In respect of the study, Data is collected through secondary sources i.e. books, journals, case study, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank project reports and research articles. Study is analytical and descriptive in nature and examined China's Vision, establishment of AIIB and policies of emerging institutions. The research explore that the Afro-Asian developing states has started development projects as railroad, road infrastructure, technology modernization, power distribution and economic support program with help of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. In respect of the study, data indicates that China's involvement in developing states is leading which is raising their economy and infrastructure development. Study indicates that developing states of Asia particularly in Pakistan, China has initiated infrastructure development projects to secure mutual interests. The study also revealed that infrastructure development is necessary for economic stability of developing nations and in this regard Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is playing prominent role.

Keywords: Asia, China, Geo-Economics, Global, Infrastructure Politics, Power, Strategy, United States.

Economic Security Challenges for Pakistan During Post-Pandemic Era

Samer Fatima

MS Scholar, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Since the inception of Pakistan, economic stability remained a significant and priority issue in its internal and external policies. The economy of country was largely dependent on its agrarian resources during the initial decades. Later, industrial development initiated however it was constrained by multiple challenges of political instability and security of state. During the past three decades, the economy of Pakistan largely remained dependent on loans and financial aids from international financial institutions such as, IMF. However Pakistan did not succeed to accomplish value added export led strategies, expansion of finishing goods and service industry outside Pakistan which made it primarily reliant on export of raw materials like agricultural products without significant value addition factors. In the backdrop of Covid-19 and emergent economic challenges across the world, acute financial consequences were developed for the agrarian states like Pakistan which lacks a sound industrial and technological base of its economy in accordance with changing needs of the time. The Covid-19 caused major disruption in Pakistan's economy as prior to pandemic, the GDP growth rate was 2.50% in 2019 which later declined to negative point -1.27% during the fiscal year of 2020. Furthermore, fiscal debt was increased up to 12.74% in 2020 as compare to 2019. This led to shape multiple challenges like unemployment, shut down of small businesses, increase in job displacement, fiscal deficit, and decline in foreign direct investment. This study intends to analyze economic challenges in post-covid period for Pakistan as well as how Pakistan's government responded to these issues. In response to these economic challenges, the first national security policy of Pakistan was announced in January 2022 which prioritized human security of Pakistan's citizens. The idea of human security is significantly related to socio-economic development and social and economic well-being of people. The underlying study also aims to focus on national security strategy, proposed policies and its strength to tackle economic problems and resultant outcomes. This research analyzes economic security challenges to Pakistan in post-pandemic era by employing qualitative research method while using analytical approach.

Keywords: COVID-19, Debt, Fiscal, GDP, Human Security, National Security Strategy, Pakistan.

Challenges of Federal and Inter-Provincial Relations in Pakistan: A Case Study of Imran Khan Government

Saira Iqbal

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Okara, Pakistan.

Fizza Ali

Lecturer, Department of Pakistan Studies, NUML University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Federalism is a system of government wherein power divides between Centre and Provincial units. In the context of Pakistan, the term ‘federalism’ pertains to the country’s political system where powers and authorities are distributed between the federal government and provincial governments. In Pakistan, the division of powers between them is delineated by the 1973 Constitution. It outlines area of jurisdiction for both levels of government, with certain authorities falling under provincial jurisdiction and others being shared between them. After the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, which were significant changes occurred in the dynamics of federal-provincial relations. The 18th Amendment aimed to devolve more power and authorities to the provinces, aligning with the principle of provincial autonomy. The main objective of this study is to examine the balance of power which often shifted between federal government and provinces. It also discusses the basic challenges of their relations during Imran Khan Regime. This is an analytical and descriptive approach using case study method and qualitative research which mainly relies on literature review. The findings suggests that during Imran Khan’s tenure, there were conflicts between the federal and inter-provincial relations particularly the government of Sindh led by Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) and the government of Punjab led by Imran Khan’s own party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). These challenges often create the issues such as resource allocation and other administration authority. It also finds out that federal-provincial relations during Imran Khan’s tenure were intricated and influenced by variety of factors including political dynamics, economic consideration and constitutional provisions. It suggests that effective communication, negotiation and clear delineation of powers is the key to manage issues in their relations and maintaining a balance between federal authority and provincial autonomy.

Keywords: Federalism, Constitution, Pakistan, Province, Government, Challenges.

Politics of Water Issues in Pakistan: A Case Study of Kalabagh Dam

Farwa Hussain

MS Scholar, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan

Dr. Aisha Shahzad

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

This research investigates the complex politics surrounding water issues in Pakistan, with a primary focus on the contentious Kalabagh Dam project — to comprehend the regional, ethnic, and political dynamics surrounding this project across provinces. The research encompasses a comprehensive case study spanning from the 1980s to 2022, based on existing literature, including research articles, books, newspapers, and media interviews of relevant politicians to examine the dam's implications on the country's energy sector. The findings reveal critical factors that have made Kalabagh Dam project a source of controversy. These include regional disparities in water distribution, poor water management practices, lack of trust among provinces, and the perceived dominance of Punjab over other regions. Notably, smaller provinces assert that Punjab receives an unfair share of water, sparking conflicting perspectives on water distribution. Moreover, the research underscores the pressing crisis faced by Pakistan's energy sector, primarily stemming from its high dependency on non-renewable resources such as coal, gas, and oil. The evident impacts of climate change, manifested in floods, droughts, and heatwaves, further emphasize the urgency to transition towards sustainable energy sources. Regrettably, successive governments failed to reach a provincial consensus on the subject. In conclusion, to foster sustainable development and overcome regional tensions, equitable water distribution, and efficient water management practices must be prioritized. The urgent need to transition towards renewable energy should be a central focus to mitigate the energy crisis and combat the challenges posed by climate change. The lessons drawn from this study can inform policymakers on the path toward a more harmonious and prosperous future for Pakistan.

Keywords: Kalabagh Dam, Inter-provincial, Energy Crisis, Hydel power, Pakistan, Water.

Religious Political Parties and Their Conceptualization of Pakistan: A Case Study of Jamaat-e-Islami

Zaib un Nisa

Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The relationship between religion and politics continues to be an important theme in political doctrine, despite the emergent consensus on the right to freedom of conscience and the need for separation between religion and state. Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) is one of the key Islamic ideological groups which continue with a legitimate way to deal with its political objectives to control. Since its foundation in 1941, JI has taken on a majority rule based on a written constitution. After the emergence of Pakistan, JI attempted to seek its goals and objectives favoring the ideology within the constitutional boundaries of the Pakistani state. In any case, strict ideological groups and JI specifically see Islam as the single and general significance of life, unessential of existence. The assumed sole importance of life by religious ideological groups unquestionably gives these associations one expected position to consolidate an Islamic political request in the Pakistani state. JI, despite, being similarly a popularity-based Islamic party will in general conceptualize the Pakistani state just as Islamic. However, their Islamic-driven political talks are neither against enemies of any majority rule nor the government, but these become entirely contradicting to attestations of different characters while observing ethnic and plural real factors of Pakistani society as an irrelevant notion.

Keywords: Federalism, Islam, Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan, Religious political parties, State.

Local Government System of Pakistan: A Case Study of Punjab Local Government Act 2013

Ms. Samia Jamshed

Lecturer, Department of History & Pakistan Studies, University of Home Economics, Lahore, Pakistan.

PhD Scholar, Pakistan Study Center, University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Local Bodies are an essential part of any country that possesses to be a democratic state. Pakistan has been unfortunately quite indifferent when it comes to political norms since independence 1947 which ultimately resulted into discontinuous political system not only at national and provincial but also at local level. Being a basic essence of democracy, Local Government is the most ignored subject while discussing achievements and failures of democracy in the country. The majority of governments ruled over Pakistan have always tried to strengthen democracy without the enactment of local government system or without even realizing the importance or need of its implementation. Verily, it was a military dictator who introduced the concept of local government to local masses of the country in 1958. Pakistan has experienced just three major local bodies system in 75 years of existence and ironically all three were proposed under military regimes. It is not said that democratic governments have not introduced any local bodies system in the country but they had been ignorant of the subject on terms of execution of the plan or they were not ready to share the power at local level. The 18th amendment proved to be a ray of hope for the subject of local government, as many powers from central level were transferred to provincial governments. It was expected that provincial governments will also share and devolved some functions at local level however the situation turned out to be not so progressive, as in Punjab many old traditions were reintroduced under the Local Government Act 2013. This research is about to highlight and discuss certain measures of Punjab Local Government Act 2013 which became the reason of discontinuity in the implementation of local government system in the province. It focuses on the Administrative, Financial and Political influence of government which became a barrier in the development of the system. It also relates the provisions of Punjab Local Government Act 2013 and significant case studies after local government elections 2015, along with some effective measures under previous local government system of 2000 and its impacts on the present situation of local government system in the province.

Keywords: Eighteenth Amendment, Local Government, Pakistan, Punjab Local Government Act 2013.

Role of Religion as a Political and Constitutional Force in National Security Discourse of Pakistan: A Reappraisal

Sara Ahmad

Lecturer, Department of Politics & International Relations, Leads University, Lahore, Pakistan.

PhD Scholar, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Dr. Sadia Mahmood Falki

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Islam has been a common national identity since the inception of Pakistan, otherwise divided into provincial, ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious lines. Religious discourse in Pakistan is characterized by the presence of a large number of religiously motivated groups, political and non-political organizations, and sectarian tendencies. Furthermore, religious organizations follow multiple agendas such as the ideological transformation of society, the establishment of *Khalifat*, enforcement of *Sharia* law and achieving their sectarian goals through militancy. Civilian governments and military regimes instrumentalized Islam for the purpose of legitimization. In the backdrop of some internal and external factors, Pakistan's involvement in proxy wars and later its participation in the war against terrorism made Pakistan itself a victim of terrorism. Previous state discourses used religion as a force of integration despite all ethnic, cultural and territorial differences, but now it has become a threat to national security.

This research addresses the question that how the evolution of religion from state discourse to societal discourse became a challenge to the national security of Pakistan. The objective of this study is to find out the root cause of religious extremism which subsequently challenged the security of the state. In addition, the role of religion in politics, internal policies and strategies and regional and international events and developments are also discuss at length. This research divides the role of religion as a political and constitutional force into five major phases. The first phase (1947 - 1958) discusses the use of Islam for national integration, the second phase (1959 - 1971) points out Islam as a key source for the legitimization of regimes and government, and the third phase (1972 - 1988) discusses the emergence of Islam as a political and constitutional force, fourth phase (1989 - 2000) focus on the sectarian Islam that was the off-shoot of Zia's era, last phase (2001 - 2012) highlights Islam as a source of political contestations between state and non-state actors. This research concludes that religious extremism has become a foremost challenge for the national security of Pakistan. Multiple internal and external factors provided space to grow extremism in society. As a result, various religious extremist groups became powerful and started challenging the writ of the state and tried to impose their extremist ideologies by resorting to violence. For countering the challenge, Pakistan's military and law enforcement agencies started operations against the religious extremist involved in terrorist activities.

Keywords: Constitution, Islam, National Security, Pakistan, Religion.

Dynamics of Nationalism under BJP: Challenge for Religious Minorities in India

Amina Waseem

Undergraduate Student, Department of Political Science, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan.

Tabita Victor

Lecturer, Department of Political Science Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan.

Aliya Talib

Lecturer, Department of Political Science Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Power is divided between the Centre and the federating units under a federal system. It emphasizes tolerance for diversity and peaceful coexistence. For India's cultural and religious diversity, federalism is crucial. The preservation of religious minorities is one of the challenges faced by federalism in India. In addition, Hindu nationalism has gained strength, generating questions about how to protect religious minorities like Muslims and Sikhs. The main objective of the study is to analyze the protection of religious minorities under federal set up in India. Methodologically, qualitative research will be conducted and data will be collected through secondary sources of data collection. Literature focusing on following themes will be studied on changing dynamics of federalism in India, comprehensive analysis of government policies and challenges regarding protection of minorities. Conceptually, this study relies on the theoretical framework of federalism. Preliminary findings suggest that the influence of Hindu nationalism under Prime Minister Modi has led to a more centralized approach to governance. The central government has initiated policies and made decisions that encroach on the autonomy of states. Moreover core ideas of federalism are not targeted as people from diverse culture and religions are not protected by the state. In conclusion, federalism has been a cornerstone of Indian democracy but the rise of Hindu nationalism under Narendra Modi's leadership has altered the dynamics of federalism in India. Religious minorities facing a lot of challenges.

Keywords: Federalism, Religious Minorities, Hindu nationalism, India.

Indian Geopolitical Imagination of Akhand Bharat; Implications for South Asian Peace and Security

Dua Hamid

Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Javaria Shaikh

Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Kulsoom Fayyaz

Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

India's new parliament building, inaugurated in 2023 has been adorned with the map of Akhand Bharat, instead of current India. The map which depicts the Mauryan Empire under Ashoka, has sparked controversy from the neighboring states of India, which instead of being represented as independent and sovereign states, have been shown as a part of united India. The placement of such a map at an official state building confirms that the narrative of Akhand Bharat is the official and national geopolitical imagination of India. The concept of geopolitical imaginations is derived from the theory of critical geopolitics. This theory rejects the deterministic and objective approach of classical geopolitics which asserts that geography determines the national character of states and facilitates the pursuit of certain foreign policies and strategies over the others. According to critical geopolitics, all knowledge, including geographical is produced by the powerful in a manner that it reinforces the power of the powerful. In this regard, significant weightage is given to the 'geopolitical imaginations' and the role of intellectuals of statecraft. Geopolitical imagination is based on geopolitical visions, which are the ideas regarding one's own space and other's space that involves feelings of security or insecurity, advantage or disadvantage and ideas about the collective aims of foreign policy. The intellectuals of statecraft are the 'experts' who proclaim 'truths' about international politics and are able to influence the popular narrative as well as the course of foreign policy making of states. The BJP government in India has its roots in the far-right wing nationalist movement Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) that has amassed popular support on the basis of ultra-conservative and radical nationalist narratives such as Hindutva and Akhand Bharat. This article is based on qualitative research method and aims to highlight how the geopolitical imagination of BJP regarding India as a primarily Hindu state, along with its neighbors being absorbed in the Akhand Bharat has been influencing Indian foreign policy discourse. Furthermore, this research investigates how the Indian expansionist designs can affect the regional stability and security.

Keywords: South Asia, Security, Akhand Bharat, Expansionism.

Civil Military Relations in Myanmar: The Longevity of the Sit-Tat

Ms. Roshni Kapur

Ph.D. Scholar at University of Gent, Germany.

Abstract

The February 2021 coup abruptly ended the military-civilian hybrid political system in Myanmar, shortly after the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), lost the 2020 General Elections. A series of peaceful protests and strikes erupted immediately after the military takeover including the emergence of a trans-ethnic movement as a strategic effort to forge unity across various ethnic groups, including the majority Bamar, to stop the junta from controlling of the state machinery. It also saw former MPs, mostly from the National League for Democracy (NLD), set up the Committee Representing the People's Hluttaw (CRPH) to preserve their legitimacy as the rightful government of Myanmar. The coup, however, raised queries on why the junta disrupted a seemingly beneficial arrangement that maintained its political and economic interests.

This presentation examines civil-military relations in post-independence Myanmar. Although the country has a long history of military takeovers since 1962, the most recent coup of 2021 saw the emergence of a different type of civil disobedience movement, formation of new anti-junta forces and cooperation between different forces as part of the Spring Revolution to fight the military. This presentation will explore the sustenance of the military rule in Myanmar in most parts of the country's post-independence history, short experiment with quasi democracy when the junta entered a power-sharing arrangement with the NLD from 2015 to 2021, the fallout between the two political forces and trajectory of the resistance movement that has made substantial gains in recent months. It will invoke the theory of Thomas Hobbes of 'anarchy' over 'tyranny' to explain the Tatmadaw's motivation for staging its first coup in 1962 and Samuel Finer's theory of 'disposition for the military to intervene' on the junta's decision to orchestrate later coups, particularly the 2021 takeover. The presentation will employ both secondary data, such as journal articles, books, media articles and social media posts, and primary data, including 10 in-depth and qualitative interviews held virtually with 10 experts.

Keywords: Civil Military Relations, Myanmar, Quasi Democracy, Samuel Finer's Theory.

Identity Politics in Pakistan: Case Study of Saraiki Movement

Maryum Hira

M.Phil Scholar, Department of Politics and International Relations, Leads University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Dr. Khadeeja Imran

Chairperson, Department of Politics and International Relations, Leads University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Pakistan is a multi-ethnic society where the people belonging to different races, languages and cultures co-exist. Presence of various ethnic groups in a state engender various economic and political challenges. It is a responsibility at the part of state to accommodate all varying ethnic groups in the political structure. Unfortunately, in the case of Pakistan the role of federalism in accommodating varying ethnic groups is dispirited. Centralization of power has never allowed to establish trouble-free relationship between federation and its constituent units. Ethnic unrest in Pakistan is not limited only to the provinces but also within province, there are minor ethnic groups which are at odds not only with federal government but also with the provincial ones. Identity politics taking place in the case of Saraiki movement is important because it is likely to produce an impact on the social and political dynamics of the largest province of country. Post 18th amendment scenario has provided a vitality to the movement and strengthened the role of identity politics. This paper aims at critically examining the role of federalism in relation this ethnic diversity and the role of identity politics with its impacts on national integration.

Keywords: Identity Politics, Multi-ethnic society, National Integration, Federalism.

Crises of Identity in 20th Century: The Case of the Sikhs in India

Isra Sarwar

Lecturer, Department of History & Pakistan Studies, University of Home Economics, Lahore, Pakistan.

Ph.D Scholar at Pakistan Study Centre, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Abstract

Punjab has been in turmoil since partition of sub-continent and now its predicament is the outcome of a complex set of factors including the mixing of religion with politics, central machination, vote-bank politics and obvious economic grievances. In the post-partition period, Sikhs demanded affirmative discrimination largely based on colonial heritage job and regional autonomy. They started using ethnic symbols - history, geography, culture and land- to gain sympathies of masses and to attain greater political autonomy and economic benefits but the Congress considered their struggle for identity disturbing for the secular outlook of India and put this social issue into the conceptual framework of communal politics and aligned it with Sikh tradition. The situation was politically engineered by Congress by mixing religion with politics and took deceive actions following the divide and rule policy and extract electoral benefits out of it. The militant operations against fellow Sikh citizens and manipulated actions radicalized the society which creates social unrest and urged Sikhs to demand separate state for themselves. This article will highlight the Sikh political struggle for the recognition of their separate identity and demand for Khalistan. The critically analyzed historical study is based on qualitative method by using secondary sources.

Keywords: Sikh, Hindu, Congress, Akali Dal, Bhindranwale, Operation Blue Star, Khalistan, Identity.

Ethnic Politics and MQM in Pakistan

Mahpara

MS Scholar, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The post-colonial state of Pakistan witnessed the emergence of various ethnic and linguistic groups, each seeking to secure their interests and rights within the broader framework of the nation. Among these, MQM emerged as a significant political entity, representing Mohajir community, primarily Urdu-speaking immigrants who migrated to Pakistan during partition. This study delves into the historical evolution of MQM, tracing its origins, development, and role in shaping Pakistan's political landscape. This study investigates the factors that led to the rise of MQM, its evolution over the years, and its impact on Pakistan's political, social, and economic spheres. It investigates that how the party's founding was a response to perceived marginalization and the struggle for greater political representation for the Urdu-speaking community. The research further delves into MQM's ideological foundations, and the strategies it employed to address the concerns of its constituency. The study examines the shifting dynamics of ethnic politics in Pakistan, with a focus on the interactions between MQM and other political and ethnic actors. It explores the party's engagement with state institutions, its role in shaping urban governance policies, and its stance on issues such as linguistic rights, provincial autonomy, and economic development. Furthermore, this paper delves into MQM's involvement in street politics, its relationship with law enforcement agencies, and the subsequent military operations that targeted the party in the 1990s. It analyzes the impact of these operations on MQM's trajectory, its ideological shifts, it analyzes the factors contributing to the party's fluctuating popularity and electoral successes, and the eventual splintering of the party into different factions. The study also sheds light on MQM's shifting stance on key national issues, its role in coalition governments and its ability to influence policies at the provincial and federal levels. Additionally, it explores the challenges MQM faced, including allegations of violence, corruption, and leadership crisis, and their effects on the party's popularity and electoral performance.

Keywords: Ethnicity, MQM, Provincial Autonomy, Violence.

Dynamics of Ethnic Fault lines in Pakistan: Analyzing Irredentism in Baluchistan

Dr Fauzia Ghani

Chairperson, Department of Political Science, Govt. College University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Syed Alamdar Raza

MS Scholar, Department of Political Science, Govt. College University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract:

The pursuance of nationalism on the basis of ethnicity is known as ethno-nationalism. It derives its existence from the ideological grounds where people tend to trace out their identity from ancestors and largely encompass the already existing cultural practices, norms and values of society. It is quite unequivocal to mention here that Pakistan has been confronting with ethnic conflicts since its inception which have weakened the spirit of federalism.

Although the variegated ethnic groups of sub-continent have been united by the then leadership under the banner of Islam to create a distinct national identity, yet the customized bonding of nationalism has failed to satisfy the aspirations of dissent ethnic groups. Since then the state and ethnic groups are at loggerhead with each other. This research paper primarily focuses on the concept of Ethno-nationalism and also elucidates that how nationalistic bonding on the basis of ethnicity can undermine the already existing bonding of nationalism which is against the solidarity of federation. As far as the research methodology is concerned, qualitative content analysis has been utilized in order to draw new inferences. The paper also sheds light on the factors which propel an ethno-national movement to harbor secessionist tendencies in a multi-ethnic state. In particular, the prime importance has been given to the ethno-nationalistic movement of Pakistan with special reference to Baluchistan. It has transpired that inequitable resource allocation and unjust representation in main stream politics are deteriorating the prevailing ethnic antagonism. Hence the equitable resource allocation and just representation are indispensable to mitigate the ethnic rifts. Moreover, the researcher explicates the phenomenon of ethno-nationalism under the theoretical framework of social constructivism.

Keywords: Baluchistan, Ethno-nationalism, Irredentism, Social-constructionist, Secession, Pakistan.

Elite Politics and Ethno-Regional Polarization in Pakistan

Dr. Ruqia Kalsoom

Assistant Professor, Virtual University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Ethnic and Regional Polarization has become the most complex issue and has the central importance in contemporary multi ethnic, multilingual and multicultural countries. It is one of the core issues in the newly developed and heterogeneous countries like Pakistan to create a common national identity and sense of belongings among the diverse ethnic, lingual and regional groups. The growing trends of Ethno-Regional fragmentation do not only constitute a major threat to the corporate existence of the country but are also working against its sustainability. However, the polarization on Ethno-Regional basis has been further intensified by the ruling elites, who consistently tried to capture and enhancing their power. The concentration of power and resources in the hands of a few has led to neglect and marginalization of certain regions and ethnic groups, leading to deep-seated grievances and resentment. This has created a vicious cycle where marginalized groups turn to extremist ideologies as a means of resistance, further fueling violence and instability in the country. This study tends to elaborate that how the ethnic and regional differences have been erupted in Pakistan while diminishing the spirit of solidarity and integration. And why political elites in Pakistan remained unable to manage Ethno-Regional diversity in Pakistan? The study also attempts to investigate the strategies and policies deployed by the political elites to manage the Ethno-Regional diversity in Pakistan. The study argues that the ill planned strategies, not only strengthened the feelings of ethnic resentment and regional polarization rather affected the ever survival of the country. Due to the descriptive and analytical nature of the research the data is collected from secondary and primary resources.

Keywords: Ethnicity, Regionalism, Polarization, Elite Politics, Pakistan.

Possibilities and Challenges of Khalistan Movement in India (1982-2022)

Rabia Afzal

MS Scholar, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to explore the challenges and possibilities surrounding the Khalistan movement in India. It examines the historical context and motivations behind the movement, delves into socio-political complexities it poses, and analyzes its impact on both regional and national dynamics. The study investigates and analyses the "Khalistan Movement," a term used to describe the Sikh separatist movement that calls for an independent country in India known as "Khalistan." How their religious identity changed over time and how they fared historically? They had long governed the Punjab and fought hard to preserve and advance their religious and cultural identity in India. This study focuses at the causes of the Khalistan movement's growth in 1980 and fall in 1992. Because of the social, political, and economic circumstances that contributed to the Sikh community's perception of deprivation in India, the Sikh community calls for the creation of a separate state. The Punjab Crisis was primarily caused by Sikh desires for greater regional autonomy, a separate identity, political concerns, and water issues. The state's policies played a significant role in the emergence and demise of the Khalistan movement. Furthermore, the study explores the complexities of the movement, involving the challenges of maintaining unity among various factions, negotiating with the Indian government, and managing international perceptions. This study highlights how the Diaspora's financial support, advocacy efforts, and international networking provided a lifeline for the movement. The counterinsurgency measures by the Indian government, including the deployment of security forces and intelligence operations to curtail the movement's growth.

Keywords: Diaspora, Sikh separatist movement, Khalistan Movement, India.

Voting Trends in Pakistan A Case Study of 2008 Elections in Pakistan

Sana Asif

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Pakistan Studies, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

This research study aims to analyze the voting trends in Pakistan during the 2008 General elections. The 2008 General elections were significant as they marked a transition from military rule to civilian governance in the country. This case study focuses on understanding the factors that influenced voter behavior and shaped the electoral outcomes. However, the research methodology employed for this study includes a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches. Data from official election records, and surveys with voters was analyzed to gain insights into the voting patterns and trends.

The study examines various factors that influenced voter behavior, such as political party affiliations, candidate profiles, socio-economic factors, regional dynamics, and issues of national importance. Additionally, it explores the impact of media coverage and political campaigns on voter decision-making. The findings of this research contribute to a better understanding of the democratic process in Pakistan and provide insights into the factors that shape voting trends. The results can be used by policymakers, political parties, and researchers to develop strategies for effective political campaigning and voter engagement.

Keywords: Voting Trends, Pakistan, 2008 General Elections, Voter Behavior, Political Party Affiliations, Candidate Profiles, Socio-Economic Factors, Regional Dynamics, Media Coverage.

The Role of Chief Executive in Institutional Building in Pakistan: 1973-1977

Dr. Fauzia Rashid

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The present study is aimed to explore the role of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in institutional building in Pakistan from 1973 to 1977. Findings of the study are divided into four parts i.e. role of Bhutto in the institutionalization of parliament, executive, military and bureaucracy. The findings indicated that Bhutto regime was not different and he just like other Pakistani political leaders was too much concerned about his own characterization and political ambitions. He instead of building independent state institutions used state institutions for securing and maximizing his own rule from 1973 to 1977. Although he proposed and successfully presented the first civilian constitution in 1973 yet he was much worried about his own goals. He tempered the true spirit of Westminster parliamentary model which resulted weak political institutions in the country. Therefore, it is concluded that apparently Bhutto was concerned about the nation and institution building but deep inside his motives were personal.

Keywords: Bureaucracy, Chief Executive, Institutional Building, Pakistan, Military, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Challenges to Democracy in Pakistan

Warda Akhtar

M.Phil Scholar, Department of Political Science, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Demo means public, and democracy is considered the most applauded form of government worldwide because of the same reason. The public gets to decide on the administration via adult suffrage. They have the power to scrutinize the policies and manifesto of the political parties and elect the most suited one which saves the state from hazardous strategies, case in point ex-US president Mr. Donald Trump wasn't reelected due his authoritative plus fruitless approaches. This study scrutinizes how such a welcomed form of government couldn't sustain within Pakistan. It will elucidate the diverse, conventional plus novel or unaddressed challenges to democracy within the state which constitutionally adopted it. It will also shed light on whether the civilian administration observed, can be considered "democracy" or had it been oligarchy marketed as one. It is a qualitative research, which utilizes the case study approach for the pursuit of the aforementioned.

Keywords: Challenges, Democracy, Oligarchy, Pakistan.

Democracy at the Crossroads: Identifying Hindrances and Pathways in Pakistan

Usama Kamran

M.Phil Scholar, Department of Politics and International Relations, Leads University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Dr. Khadeeja Imran

Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, Leads University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The challenges to democracy in Pakistan are multidimensional and somewhat fearsome. Democracy in Pakistan has always been vulnerable. This paper discusses the core reasons that have affected the consolidation of democratic governance in the country. Pakistan's democracy faces continual and constant challenges arising from a history of military interventions, political instability, and weak institutions. The military's historical involvement in politics has disturbed the democratic process, leading to a weak civil-military relationship altogether. Furthermore, increased corruption, unequal access to justice, and inadequate provision of basic services have shaken public trust in democratic institutions. Ethnic and sectarian tensions also pose challenges to national unity, often impeding the smooth functioning of democratic mechanisms. Additionally, media censorship and restrictions on freedom of expression undermine the foundation of democratic discourse. These multifarious challenges underscore the need for comprehensive reforms targeting institutional strengthening, political inclusivity, and economic development. Addressing these issues is crucial to fostering a reliable democratic system capable of navigating Pakistan through its complex socio-political landscape

Keywords: Military interventions, Political instability, Weak institutions, Media censorship, Ethnic & sectarian tensions.

Identity Politics and Social Exclusion in Pakistan: A Case Study of the Christian Community Living in Lahore

Bushra Tabassum

Lecturer, Department of Sociology & Gender Studies, University of Home Economics, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The identity of a state can be shaped by the shared traits of its various ethnic, cultural, social, and religious groups. In Pakistan, which was founded in 1947, the ‘Two-Nation theory’ formed the basis of its establishment. The Muslims who lived in Indo-Pakistan felt socially excluded, and so they were promised a place where every social group would have the freedom to perform their rituals and festivals, worship, follow their traditions and values, and enjoy their culture. This meant that people of every religion could live according to their own will. In this research paper, the author aims to highlight the social exclusion experienced by the Christian community from social-cultural, socio-economic, and socio-religious perspectives. The research adopts a mixed approach to understanding social exclusion and political identity formation of the Christian community. For this study, the researcher conducted interviews with 10 participants aged 25-35 who have resided in Lahore for at least 10 years. Additionally, the researcher reviewed relevant literature, including books and newspaper articles. The data underwent statistical tests and theme analysis to derive insights. The data analysis depicted that Christians are not well-represented on federal, national, and local levels in Pakistan. They face poor socio-economic conditions, with mostly blue-collar jobs available to them. Their religious and political conditions are also not good. The government of Pakistan and local authorities should take crucial steps to abolish social exclusion and create a society where all communities can feel true liberty, not just in terms of the constitution but in reality.

Keywords: Christian Community, Social Exclusion, Identity Politics, Lahore, Pakistan.

Acceptance & Legitimization of Martial law in Pakistan

Fazeelat Razzaq

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Political legitimacy is the core of political organization and a central issue in social and political theory. It pertains how power used in a more-or-less equal benefit for everyone with in a state. States that lack legitimacy devote more resources to maintaining their rule and less to effective governance which reduces support and makes them vulnerable to overthrow or collapse. Legitimate government is permitted by the relevant constitution and is carried out by the elected representatives of the people. The constitutional provision of political participation in the political system authorized citizen to maintain check and balance over the functions of the government and scrutiny or criticized them and prone the concrete development. Despite the fact that there is no space for martial law in the constitution of Pakistan, the history has witnessed four tenancies of military ruling in the state. Martial law is always considered as undemocratic because its application can only be achieved by the abrogation of constitution and dissolution of the national as well as provincial assemblies of the state. This research will examine military intervention in politics of Pakistan and how military regime opt a status of legitimacy. It will also focus on the acceptance of military as the ruler of the state by the society and achievements made by the government. Descriptive research along with Cross-sectional research design was employed to investigate the acceptance of the legitimization in military and civilians. Moreover, Snowball sampling strategy was employed to collect data.

Keywords: Democracy, Economic Development, Legitimacy, Good Governance, Political Culture, Martial Law, Terrorism, Security.

Gender Inequality in Pakistani Society

Dr. Sobia Naseer

Assistant Professor, Department of Pakistan Studies, Lahore College for Women University
Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Gender inequality is a global phenomenon which persists in Asian states apparently rooted in the cultural practices and largely augmented by the socio-economic structures in respective societies. The challenges of gender inequality are more evident in South Asian states due to multitude of problems ranging from political instability, authoritarian tendencies in political systems, violent ethnic and religious identity conflicts and most importantly patriarchal nature of societies. The persistence of these conflicts with varied intensity at time transform gender inequality into gender discrimination due to lack of consideration of gender related issues in public policy making. The issues of gender inequality in Pakistan are complex in nature and rooted in multiple socio-economic, ethnic and political realities of its society. In addition, the traditional religious interpretations reinforce stereotype gender roles while leaving less room for any breakthrough to address the challenge of gender inequality while affecting the capabilities, freedoms, and agencies of women in Pakistan. Pakistan is a patriarchal society where men are viewed as primary authority figures whereas women are expected to follow the lead of their male counterparts. This has serious implications on women's and men's perspectives regarding decision making at both micro and macro levels. The aim of underlying study is to explore contemporary gender roles in urban Pakistan.

The research focuses on how these gender roles are established and maintained in Pakistani society while paving grounds for perceptible gender inequality at homes, work and public places. The research is primarily qualitative and discussion part is built on qualitative data collected by five focus group on related issues. The participants of focus groups are 100 women representing employed, unemployed, educated and illiterate women from different socio-economic strata of urban section of Pakistani society. The 'Manifest and latent content analyses' were applied. Two major themes emerged during the analysis; 'Reiteration of gender roles' and 'Agents of change'. The first theme enclosed perceptions of traditional gender roles and analyzes that how these patriarchal ideas preserve women's subordination. The second theme included agents of change, where the role of education was prominent as well as the role of mass media. It was further emphasized that the younger generation was more positive to modernization of gender roles than the elder generation.

Keywords: Discrimination, Empowerment, Gender Roles, Inequality, Violence, Women, Pakistan.

Religious Extremism and Power Politics: Issues of Good Governance in Pakistan

Zara Ejaz

Lecturer, Political Science, Government Post-Graduate College for Women, Sheikhpura, Pakistan.

Abstract

This Paper has explained the nature of religious extremism and its connection with power politics in the political culture of Pakistan. Extremism in general and religious extremism in particular has become prevalent challenge of contemporary age, and Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries in this regard. This study has framed in order to grasp the conceptual clarity of this looming large phenomenon. The trends of religious extremism and its connection with power politics in Pakistan has discussed through the paradigm of realism. The result has drawn how extremists use religion for politics, the cause of Islam is mere slogan and behind the curtain real motives are power and authority. This study has analyzed the above phenomenon through the lens of Realism, Rational Choice Theory and Cost-Benefit analysis. In realpolitik, the basic struggle is to pursue self-interest, and self-interest translated into the language of politics as quest for power. However, it has concluded in this literature, whenever extremist agenda upraised for religious cause, the real motives linked with power politics and self-interest instead of serving religion. The paradoxical political history of Pakistan is filled with contradictions, episodic alliance and non-alliance with religious extremists to pursue power politics in the realm of domestic and international politics which gave rise to intolerance extremism, terrorism and radicalization in the society. The cost-benefit analysis has concluded the state has to pay heavy cost in term of sustain power within and outside the country.

Keywords: Extremism, Terrorism, Radicalization, Realism, Power Politics, Religious Extremist.

Women Empowerment in Bangladesh: Lessons for Pakistan

Saman Ferheen

M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Politics & International Relations. Leads University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Dr. Khadeeja Imran

Chairperson, Department of Politics and International Relations, Leads University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract:

Over the past few decades, despite grappling with gender inequalities and limitations on women's roles rooted in cultural and Islamic values, Bangladesh has made substantial progress in addressing gender disparities and promoting women's rights. Bangladesh has emerged as a champion of women's empowerment in South Asia through diverse initiatives encompassing education, economic inclusion, social awareness programs, and legislative reforms. The success of microfinance programs and targeted educational reforms has contributed to elevating the status of women. Women's empowerment is a pressing issue in Pakistan. Implementing similar strategies to those of Bangladesh could enable Pakistan to create an inclusive environment, facilitating women's active participation across societal domains and contributing to national development. By analyzing the effectiveness of these interventions, the study aims to provide a modified model for women's empowerment in Pakistan.

Keywords: Bangladesh, Educational Reforms, Empowerment, Microfinance, legislative reforms.

Political Empowerment of Women in Pakistan: A Case study of Musharraf Regime

Dr. Fouzia Imran

Principal, Govt. Degree College for Women Gulshan-e-Ravi, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Women empowerment is somewhat a new concept that has recently been introduced in the field of modern politics. It is extracted from the theory of Feminism, which was basically driven from the global awakening regarding equality for women. It is to guarantee their participation in all aspects of life for their protection against all forms of prejudice. Political empowerment is strongly associated with women empowerment. It is due to this reason that reserved seats for women in legislative bodies are considered the best option to protect their political rights. This study is conducted to visualize the political empowerment of women during the Musharraf regime (2001-2007). Since the very beginning different governments in Pakistan have been endeavoring to provide opportunities to the women in politics through reserved seats in the parliament and provincial assemblies. In this regard, considerable efforts were made under Musharraf regime when ground breaking 20% seats were allocated to women in the parliament and provincial assemblies and 33% in local bodies. However, the productivity of these women parliamentarians remained questionable in the legislative processes.

The aim of this study is to explicate their relations, attitudes and socio-economic background in an effort to scrutinize the capabilities of these women parliamentarians on general and reserved seats from the district of Lahore and their outcome on the entire legislative process. Mixed Method Approach is applied to infer the results. Data is collected through In-depth interviews of the respondents belonging to five major demographic groups. (MPAs, MNAs, NGOs, Academia and Journalists). Sample survey is conducted to make the study more authentic. Secondary sources have also been utilized. This research infers that political empowerment of women in Pakistan has been significantly conditioned with state policies and societal norms. The forces of globalization pushed state authorities to ingrain modern trends but orthodoxies existing in the society posed numerous challenges.

Keywords: Feminism, Globalization, Lahore, Parliament, Women Empowerment.

Women in Security Decision-Making of Pakistan: Necessities, Challenges and Implications

Dr. Hina Rashid

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Government College Gulberg, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The concept of 'security' has been attached to the men in most of traditional and modern societies. Multiple relevant terms to security like war, conflict, and violence are predominantly devoted to masculinity, rather the fact is that women are the prime sufferers of these dilemmas. A victim of violence can best find the solution to this problem. On the other hand, if only the number of the women in the world is taken into consideration, which makes up almost half of the world's population, to exclude them from a significant domain seems unfair and unjust. Such a state leads to the nonexistence of gender perception from security policy-making. In such a significant policy making process, the inclusion of every community that would be affected by the mentioned policy, is essential. This study seeks to evaluate the significance of role of women in state and society. It also highlights the importance of women's inclusion in decision-making, particularly in the domain of security in Pakistan. The study explores the statistics of women's inclusion in relevant security institutions. It also sheds light on the drawback of women's exclusion from such a significant domain. The study also presents way forward to deal with particular gender dilemma that can lead to enduring peace and security in Pakistan.

Keywords: Women, Security, Decision-making, Gender-equality, Peace-building.

Challenges for Women Parliamentarians for Delivering Effective Parliamentary Services

Saba Lodhi

Lecturer, Department of Gender Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

Women have become the part of the legislative processes in national as well as provincial assemblies in Pakistan. Often women parliamentarians were viewed and considered as quota filling seaters. Now the trend has been changing. They are no more silent quota filling seaters. But the question arises how effectively they are performing their parliamentary roles and what are the challenges they face during the performance of these roles and responsibilities? The study aims at exploring the answer of two broad questions by following the ontological stance of ‘Determinist’ school of thought. Survey design has been adopted to execute the study plan. A sample of 110 respondents including women as well as men parliamentarians and officials of Punjab Assembly was approached and Principle component analysis technique has been used for data analysis and dimension reduction. Findings of the study synthesized the factors that affect the parliamentary service of women parliamentarians. The important factors are, marginalization due to public-private dichotomy, Gender biasness in political preference, extreme party dependency, dual role expectations and lack of political skills and experience, a few to mention. This study concludes that the majority of challenges that women parliamentarians face, will be minimized by creating gender responsive culture in parliament.

Keywords: Dichotomy, Gender biasness, Marginalization, Parliamentarians, Pakistan.

Conceptualizing women empowerment in South Asian Context

Muhammad Naseer Ahmad Taib

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, GC University, Lahore, Pakistan

Abstract

Women empowerment has been taken as an over done topic but it is far away from the factuality. This topic is aggressively discussed by radical feminists and feminists in the context of western civilization that is not ontologically applicable to the universe and South Asia is not an exception. Euro-centric work regarding women empowerment has badly failed to establish the epistemological connection between women empowerment and Asian socio-cultural settings. This conference is pertinent and timely because it gives ample opportunities to academic to unveil different aspects of women empowerment in South Asian context. South Asia is a region that has been witnessing multi-culturalism, ethno-centracism and cleansing, religious diversity and multi-linguisticism, and climate change that make it pertinent for new academic approaches. Some of the post-colonial writers have done industrious work to develop different epistemic movements to unfold different aspects to counter colonial metanarrative but long way to go to weed out colonial imprints. South Asian context to understand women empowerment need theoretical and philosophical formulation. This paper is a little attempt to conceptualize women empowerment in South Asian context. It is a historic factuality that South Asian socio-cultural settings were giving ample space to women in all aspects and perspectives of human life but it was marginalized through the elements of fixing gender roles and metanarrative that forced women to depend more on their counterpart for all kinds of their necessities. There is group of writers who believe that colonialism was a system that unleashed women from the cultural enslavement but it are for away from the factuality. In the years of economic depression, economic liabilities forced women to break their fixed roles. Neo-colonialism is also its contemporary manifestation. This paper does not only make an over emphasis of its philosophical and conceptual formulation rather also highlights postulates of women empowerment in South Asian context. Post-positivism is the epistemological position to narrate the complexities of subject. Quantitative methodology has been employed to develop the postulates of women empowerment in South Asian context. Historico-cultural methods have been used to understand the relations among its different postulates.

Keywords: Women empowerment, South Asian context, Post-colonialism, Metanarrative

Indian Hybrid Warfare and Challenges for Pakistan's Security

Prof. Dr. Shabnam Gul

Chairperson, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Gul Hira Shakir

Visiting Lecturer and Ph.D. Scholar, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

While the character of warfare has maintained certain constants, its nature has undergone significant transformations over the past two decades. The traditional concept of warfare which entailed well-coordinated and prepared engagements between world powers as exemplified by events like WW2 has become outdated and irrelevant. However, after 9/11, the world has been confronted with novel and intricate challenges, particularly in terms of the evolving hybrid nature of warfare and the need for innovative approaches to intelligence operations. After the nuclearization of South Asia, deterrence was established between India and Pakistan. As a result, direct military confrontation between them can lead to severe consequences. This gave birth to a new type of warfare between them that is known as Hybrid warfare. This research not only deals with the Indian Hybrid warfare which has become a security threat to Pakistan, but also highlights the events from the recent past which posed a security threat to Pakistan. Besides this, some recommendations regarding how and in what way Pakistan can counter this security threat from Indian Hybrid warfare, are also made in this paper.

Keywords: Contemporary World, Hybrid Warfare, Superpowers, Strategy, Intelligence, WW 2.

China-Pakistan Bilateral Relation under CPEC: Case study of Infrastructure Development

Ms. Namra Humza

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC) is a pragmatic mega project which provides prospects for socio-economic stability of Pakistan as well as strengthens its strategic position in South Asia region. This project is advantageous for Pakistan as it has improved infrastructure development of roads, highways and port while having strong probability of regionally and internationally connecting Pakistan through trade, transportation and economic activity. Moreover, this research asserts the significance of progressive alignments of central and northern regions of Punjab while stretching it to Islamabad. From there, it extends to Haripur, Abbottabad and Mansehra districts of Kyber Pukhtun Khwa. Additionally, this part of the corridor also connects through Muzaffarabad that reaches Hunjarab after passing through Diamer and Gilgit areas of Pakistan. This research while employing the David Ricardo's theory of Comparative Advantage aims to look into the prospects and as well as the challenges for Pakistan largely resultant of its participation into the project.

Keywords: CPEC, Infrastructure development, Qualitative and Quantitative research.

Strategic Maritime Maneuvering of Emerging and Middle Powers in Indian Ocean: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan

Ayesha Imtiaz

M. Phil Scholar, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The 21st century is considered as the “century of seas” because of the increasing maritime security and stability concerns among major as well as middle powers. With its ports in Karachi, Qasim, and Gwadar, Pakistan, a prominent coastal state in the middle of the Indian Ocean, conducts more than 95% of its trade by sea. In addition, Pakistan makes the most of its 290 000 sq km Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf. Pakistan provides shortest access to China, central Asian states, Afghanistan. A major route of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has caught the interest of academics and decision-makers alike, both inside and outside of Pakistan. A combination of investment and loan Projects included in the more than US\$ 46 billion CPEC model consists of constructing industrial zones, communication, and energy. For China, turning Gwadar into an "exit to the ocean" is its main strategic objective. Over the last ten years, the completion of CPEC projects has been hampered by Pakistan's political instability, financial turmoil, and terrorism. These problems still exist today, worsened by the current state of political and economic turmoil as well as terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Security of the state is most important for its survival. CPEC is the major strategic tool for Pakistan for not only its national security but also economic and military security as these are interlinked with each other. This article focuses on the internal challenges and controversies around CPEC such as Baloch resentment, structural impediments to trade, political unrest and policy implementation. It also delves into the question that will Pakistan's policy makers be able to collaborate to remove these impediments? In addition to it, this article will be focused on middle powers; Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman and emerging powers; India and China and US's role in the region. It will also tackle the ambiguity around the way Pakistan as a periphery state will deal with these emerging geo-strategic, geopolitical environment and how it can secure its position in international system as a crucial actor through naval diplomacy, alliance politics. Lastly how will Pakistan make pace for its international and regional connectivity, trade opportunities, deterrence against potential actors.

Keywords: China, CEPC, Gwadar, Indian Ocean, Maritime, Pakistan.

An Analysis of Chinese Economic Engagement with Pakistan in the wake of CPEC and its Politico-Cultural Implications

Abdul Ahad

M. Phil Scholar, Department of Political Science, Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

China and Pakistan have shared cordial relations throughout their inception despite some of the ideological differences and Pakistan's early alignment with the United States during the Cold War. The economic engagement between the two countries achieved a flamboyant zenith in the wake of the Chinese One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative and one of its flagship projects: the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). While many researchers have highlighted the potential positive prospects of this engagement for Pakistan, some have raised concern by citing the debt-trap argument and quoting similar cases, e.g., the Sri Lankan case of Hambantota port. Nevertheless, China has steadfastly refused the existence of any debt trap or imperial element in its dealings with any country, including Pakistan. Chinese narrative offers a symbiotic relationship and has rejected the concerns over these economic engagements as propaganda of the decadent global north. However, there is a lack of research exploring the particular dynamics of these engagements with Pakistan from a specific theoretical framework. This research attempts to fill this gap by exploring these engagements under the theoretical framework of Neo-colonialism. With the help of 10 semi-structured elite interviews and their qualitative content analysis, this research attempts to understand possible imperial designs of this engagement, its politico-cultural dimensions, and perceptions of Pakistanis regarding it. The interview sample would be a mixture of academics, policy analysts, journalists, and civil servants recruited through purposive sampling. The recruited sample would be experts in their fields with first-hand experience in dealing with China affairs.

Keywords: China, CEPC, Economic, Engagement, Pakistan, OBOR.

CPEC and The Parliament: Exploring Legislative Measures in Pakistan

Ms. Sarwat Iqbal

Ph.D Scholar, Department of History, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a multi-billion dollar project has been proclaimed to be the game changer for the whole region especially for Pakistan. This project considered as infrastructural venture for the future of country. This mega project has predicted revolutionary impacts not only in strong stable economy but also help out to establish good relations with other countries. The project has been discussed in both the National Assembly (Lower House) and the Senate (Upper House) and members of parliament from various political parties have expressed both support and opposition. The role of the Parliament committee for CPEC is particular importance, as it is responsible for overseeing and monitoring the implementation of CPEC projects and ensuring that they are carried out transparently effectively. There are several Parliamentary committees, Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, Senate Special Committee on CPEC, National Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reform, Senate Standing Committee on Planning Development and Reform. These committees play an important role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of CPEC project. The study aims to examine the proceedings of parliament regarding the concerns on this project. Also highlight the legal framework for the committee's work, including its mandate, composition and powers of CPEC Authority Act 2020. The findings of this research are in the light of newspapers and different official reports on CPEC.

Keywords: China, CPEC, Pakistan, Legislation, Senate, South Asia, National Assembly.

Significance of Blue Economy in South Asian Region: Opportunities, Challenges and Policy Implications

Syeda Tahira Hussain

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Gujrat, Pakistan.

Abstract:

The widening coastlines and diverse marine ecosystems of the South Asian region stand at a pivotal juncture of the Blue Economy for sustainable development. As the South Asian region, encompassing nations like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives enriched with all Blue Economy endeavors and prospects, therefore, this research paper delves into the nuanced significance of the Blue Economy in South Asia shedding light on its unique opportunities, entrenched challenges, and imperative policy interventions.

With over 120 million people dependent on aquaculture and fisheries, the sustainable usage of marine resources can generate a strong platform to bolster incomes, reduce unemployment, and uplift coastal communities. In this lieu, the study underscores the transformative role of the Blue Economy in the contemporary economic race across the world. Moreover, the paper addresses the acute issue of food security in the region and its solution through the Blue Economy, because the South Asian nations can pointedly reinforce their local fish production and other marines which could enhance food availability and also provide export opportunities instead of costly imports. However, there is a need for the regional states to put effort into better shared maritime boundary collaboration and good governance mechanisms, allowing for joint resource management and sustainable development in the region. Therefore this research encompasses all the prospects and challenges in terms of relations and governance among regional states. Simultaneously, the research also underscores the interest and trade opportunities for regional and international states. As aquaculture and fisheries are the top-rated food economy throughout the world, along with food requirements medicine and health spectrum are also aligned with the Blue Economy. Even the importance of the South Asian region for the world economic race is the top indicator of its importance.

Conclusively, this research paper offers an all-inclusive study of the Blue Economy's significance in South Asia, providing actionable insights for stakeholders, policymakers, and researchers. By expounding the monetary, ecological, and geopolitical dimensions, this paper serves as a vital road map toward sustainable and inclusive development in the region.

Keywords: Blue Economy, South Asia, Sustainable Development.

Significance of Blue Economy in South Asian Region

Sana Aslam

M.Phil Scholar, Department of International Relations, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The Blue Economy holds immense significance for South Asian countries due to their large coastlines and dependence on marine resources. This concept, initiated by the United Nations, emphasizes sustainable use of oceanic resources for economic growth, safeguarding environment, and social development. In the context of South Asia, where millions are dependent on the fisheries and related industries for livelihoods, the Blue Economy offers a way to reduce poverty and foster inclusive economic development. South Asian nations, such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan, are blessed with vast marine ecosystems, making them pivotal players in the global maritime landscape. Harnessing the Blue Economy's potential enables these countries to address multiple challenges, including food security, climate change issues, and job creation. Additionally, it promotes regional cooperation and diplomacy through shared management of trans-boundary marine resources. However, realizing the full potential of the Blue Economy in South Asia requires collaborative efforts to combat illegal fishing, reduce marine pollution, and enhance infrastructure for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Investments in research, technology, and capacity building are crucial for the region to harness its maritime resources responsibly and achieve long-term economic prosperity while safeguarding the oceans for future generations. The underlying research by using analytical, exploratory and descriptive research methods would be extending its research on how the South Asian states have benefited their economy by adopting the blue economy and what are the challenges they face and how these countries are overcoming the hurdles in the way of adopting blue economy as a new mean of developing the country.

Keywords: Blue Economy, Economic growth, Poverty, Livelihood, Development.

Advancing Sustainable Development and Regional Cooperation: The Significance of the Blue Economy in the South Asian Region

Shanza Noor

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Abstract

The South Asian Region, comprising countries such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, among others, is characterized by its extensive coastlines along the Indian Ocean and abundant marine resources. The concept of the Blue Economy, grounded in the idea of optimizing natural resources while decoupling socio-economic development from environmental degradation, assumes paramount importance in this region. Its potential to drive sustainable development, spur economic growth, and foster regional cooperation is the focus of this research. This study centers on the role of maritime cooperation among South Asian nations as a catalyst for economic growth. It delves into the mechanisms through which such cooperation can promote economic advancement by forging new partnerships, leveraging existing institutional relationships, and facilitating innovative investments in the Blue Economy. Drawing upon the framework of 'Blue Economic Theory,' this research explores the domains of renewable energy potential, climate resilience, environmental conservation, and trans-boundary cooperation. In conclusion, embracing the principles of the Blue Economy offers South Asia a promising trajectory towards sustainable development and resilience in the face of climate change. This approach not only underscores the region's commitment to responsible resource management but also signifies a brighter future for its coastal communities.

Keywords: Blue Economy, Regional Cooperation, Climate Resilience.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Venue: Iqra Auditorium

(30-1-2024)



DAY-1
SESSIONS
(30-1-2024)

Theme: Post – Modernist Discourses in South Asia:
Climate Justice and Securitization.

Venue: Student Service Center

Time: 2:00 pm

Moderator: Dr. Saima Butt / Dr. Mariam Azam.

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Rehana Hashmi (PU).



Theme: Foreign Policy and Narrative Building in South Asia.

Venue: Conference Room Mass Communication Department, PG-1 Block.

Time: 2:00 pm.

Moderator: Ms. Rabia and Ms. Namra

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Fouzia Ghani (GCU).



Theme: Political and Socio-economic Challenges in South Asia.

Venue: G-36 Botany Department, PG-1 Block.

Time: 2:00 pm.

Moderator: Ms. Fazeelat Razzaq.

Session Chair: Dr. Asma Awan (Kinnaird College, Lahore).



Theme: Poster Presentations by VII Semester.
(Political Science Department / Statistic
Department).

Venue: Iqra Auditorium.

Time: 2:00 pm.

Moderator: Ms. Shanzay Noor.

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Shabnum Gull and Dr.
Asifa Kamal (LCWU).



Theme: Poster Presentations by VII Semester (IR Department / Statistics Department)

Venue: G-35, Social Science Block

Time: 2:00 pm

Moderator: Ms.Saba Lodhi

Session Chair: Assistant Prof. Dr. Sobia Naseer



DAY-2
SESSIONS
(31-2-24)

Theme: Ethnicity and Nationalism in South Asia.

Venue: Seminar Hall, Pharmacy Department.

Time: 10:30 am.

Moderator: Dr. Mariam Azam.

Session Chair: Dr. Zainab (Garrison University).



Theme: Challenges to Democracy in Pakistan.
Venue: Conference Room Mass Communication
Department.

Time: 10:30 am.

Moderator: Ms. Fazeelat Razzaq.

Session Chair: Dr. Muhammad Younas (FCCU).



Theme: Women, Religion & Minority in South Asia.

Venue: G-36 (PG-1 Ground Floor).

Time: 10:30 am.

Moderator: Dr. Saima Butt

Session Chair: Dr. Ayesha Safdar (Kinnaird College, Lahore).



Theme: Strategic Competition in South Asia:
Amenities & Enmities.

Venue: G-35 Social Science Block.

Time: 10:30 am.

Moderator: Miss Shanzay Noor.

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Rana Ejaz (PU).



BOOK LAUNCH SESSION

Venue: Student Service Center.

Title: Local Empowered Governments.

Author: Salman Abid.

Time: 10:30am.

Guests: Prof. Dr. Nizam-Ud-Din (Ex-Chairman PHEC), Mr. Salman Abid (Writer and Public Policy Advisor), Mr. Salman Ghani (Executive Editor), Farukh Sohail (Writer Intellectual) and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zakria Zakar (Vice Chancellor, Poonch University, Azad Kashmir).



CLOSING CEREMONY

Student Service Center

(31-1-2024)



MEMORABLE MOMENT

