Non State Actors in Pakistan—Their Destabilizing role in Political crisis faced by the Region

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Abstract: The idea of nation-state after the Second World War emerged as the strongest political entity, state was being considered as sovereign authority, according to Max Weber, had monopoly over the use of force. But the NSAs begin to challenge nation-state borders and sovereignty claims. Right from there, international as well as domestic politics have been strongly affected and shaped by Non State Actors (NSAs) as entities that participate or act in international organizations. They have long influenced the political structure of a state by using violence, mobilized masses by invoking social norms, and accordingly claimed the distribution of wealth. The Non State Actors have grown into powerful political actors with backing of agencies like the Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) in Pakistan and with their increasing role in the policies of the state, have endangered the existence of Pakistan as a state. It is in itself one of the biggest problem and challenge for India that those whom Pakistan or other agencies are calling as Non State Actors are the states own creation. These actors are state sponsored and are being trained in State institutions.

Key Words: Non State Actors, Multinational corporations, ISI, Nation State, Weak States Westphalia System, Individual interest, Collective interest.

Introduction

Since the World War II, the idea of nation-state emerged as the strongest political entity, state was started being seen as ultimate authority and which, according to Max Weber, had monopoly over the use of force. This claim, however, did not go unchallenged. Right from there, international as well as domestic politics have been strongly affected and shaped by Non State Actors (NSAs) as entities that participate or act in international organizations. They have long influenced the political structure of a state by using violence, mobilized masses by invoking social norms, and accordingly claimed the distribution of wealth. They increasingly challenge the traditional state system and underlying structure of international politics. The NSAs can be defined as an organized political actor not directly connected to the state but pursuing aims that affect vital state interests. There is a wide variety of Non State Actors such as warlords, Private military corporations (PMCs) criminal and terrorist networks, organized crime groups both domestic and transnational youth gangs, multinational corporations, and the United Nations, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to name just a few.

Role of Non State Actors (NSAs)

These diverse and combo of Non State Actors have not any specific role but each have its implications for domestic and international politics. The Non State Actors have reshaped the nature of international relations by putting challenges before state sovereignty and nationalism. The policies, decisions of the sovereign state are more affected and influenced by Non State Actors rather by State Institutions. As Wye and Keohane have rightly argued that serve as transmission belts for states to develop and build their foreign policies and act as a pull to bring the nation states together to develop friendly relations.

Non State Actors come in various shapes, sizes such as NGOs, multinational corporations, UN and other organisations like terror networks, known as Violent Non State Actors. These manifold and diversified non State Actors plays a unique role in the ever-changing realm of international security. They have some positive as well as negative role whether it is in the field of International security, diplomacy or economy, but Violent Non-State Actors (VNSAs) (terrorist and criminal organisations) play a crucial and destabilizing role in humanitarian and political crisis faced by international community. “Certainly the deleterious effects of criminals and terror networks often act to undermine the fabric of international security. Simultaneously, NGOs and the UN, more often than not, exert their energy in a positive manner. Meanwhile, the role of private security firms and their influence on international security is a point of appreciable contention.”(Jesse Schwartz).
The Non State Actors in the present context of conflicts play a central role in bilateral relations with neighboring countries. The VNASs make use of different violent and unfair and illegal means to reach to their goals, they do not care for peace and security issues; they have just become a threat for international peace and security. In a cursory survey it is being suggested that role of VNASs is increasing day by day and becoming a grave threat to peace and stability.

NSAs begin to challenge nation-state borders and sovereignty claims. In his article Phil Williams argues that “VNASs have become a persistent challenge to nation-states in the 21st century”). Sometimes Non State Actors that operate without a state control plays a crucial role in internal and trans-border conflicts and subject the state institutions to their decisions. So it is important to take into consideration the complex implications of the NSA and VNASs on state and its domestic and foreign policies.

**Rise of Non State Actors**

Non State Actors do have certain things in common: they all emerge in response to inadequacies, deficiencies or shortcomings in many states and to one degree or another seek to compensate for those shortcomings. The incapable states fail to meet the needs of their peoples and the gap is filled by other actors and they illegally undermine the weak states and try to capture the power and come with alternative governance. Philip Williams also highlighted certain key dimensions responsible for the rise of NSAs such as the absence of legitimacy-absence of loyalty and agreement, states with capacity gaps, primacy of individual interest over collective interest. While talking about the legitimacy of the state he then quotes David Ronfeldt, “as a society degenerates…the more its state, market, and civil society systems falter and fall apart—people are sure to revert to the tribal form. It again becomes the driving form.”("Violent Non-State Actors and National and International Security"- Philip Williams)

We can add that VNASs are the result of poor state governance but they further try to undermine the governance of the state. The role of Non State Actors in the international security got attention after the 9/11 attack. The United States is also responsible for the rise of NSAs when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the US trained and armed the unarmed youths to resist the Soviet Invasion (R. Frost, Zaman 2015, Steve 2004).

Globalization is also seen as one of the vital factors for the rise of NSAs as it not only challenged and under estimated the individual state capacity and power to manage the state affairs but also provide facilitators and force multipliers for VNASs. In a similar vein, globalization has allowed VNASs to develop what might be termed transnational social capital and to create alliances and generate support outside the immediate area of their operations.

**Non State Actors in Pakistan**

According to the USA (Rule of law in armed conflicts project 2012), a plethora of non-State armed groups have been engaged in violent struggle in Pakistan since 2001, including:

- Harkat-ul-Jihad-I-Islamia (HUJI)
- Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HUM)
- Hizb-I Islami Guluddin (HIG)
- Hizbul Mujahideen (HM)
- Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM)
- Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ)
- Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)
- Sipah-e-Sahaba/Pakistan (SSP)
- * Al-Islambouli Brigades of al-Qaeda

These NSAs have no common interest therefore the numbers. They, however, seem to be caused by the both factors: on the one hand the inability of the country to manage its political affairs while as on the other, they are sponsored some Intelligence agencies or certain government institutions in other countries in order to fulfill their short term goals.

The ISI is believed to be aiding these organizations in Pakistan in eradicating perceived enemies and those opposed to their cause, including India. The FBI’s Satellite Imagery has suggested the existence of several militant camps in Pakistan with at least one militant admitting that he is being trained for fighting in India. Pakistan is being believed to be involved in supporting separatist militias and giving shelter and training to different Jihadist organizations in order to fight in India and raise insurgencies on Indian land. Many nonpartisan sources have suggested that the officials within Pakistan’s ISI are providing aid to Jihadists and adding that the “ISI has provide covert but well documented support to terrorist groups active in Kashmir”. But the then Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari in clear cut had denied any kind of involvement in militant activities in Kashmir and other parts of India and admitted that the previous Governments had “deliberately created and nurtured militants as a policy to achieve some short-term tactical objectives"
Mobilization of Public Opinion and controlling Pakistan’s Foreign Policy

The Non State Actors play a crucial role in mobilizing the people in Pakistan for fighting against India in Kashmir as well as in other parts of India. In this way, NSAs shape the foreign policy of Pakistan in the South Asian region as well as internationally. In consultation and guidance of State organised institutions lectures are being delivered and telecasted for mobilizing the youths.

ISI and Pak Military camps serve as training Institutions for training volunteers of the Non State Actor groups like Sapeh-Sabha, Lashkar-e-jhangvi and hafiz Syed’s Jaish-e-Mohammad. These Actors are wholly sponsored and funded by government in order to fulfill and gain their short term ends without letting the world and International organisations to know about their diplomatic warfare. They have grown into powerful actors only with the backing of ISI and government.

When the Pak-government and the institutions feel that these actors are out of control and are about to action against them, they mobilize people in the name of religion in order to get the mass support and get rid of governmental operations.

IMPLICATIONS OF VNSAs

In the post Westphalia system of State Sovereignty established in 1648 NSAs have indubitably and strongly and keenly influenced the globalised world.

- VNSAs have planned aims to create a climate of extreme fear or terror;
- Violence is directed at a wider audience or target than the immediate victims of the violence;
- They inherently involves attacks on random and symbolic targets, including civilians;
- The acts of violence committed are seen by the society in which they occur as extra-normal, in the literal sense that they breach the social norms, thus causing a sense of outrage;
- VNSAs aim at to influence political behavior in some way, for example to force opponents into conceding some or all of the perpetrators demands, to provoke an over-reaction, to serve as a catalyst for a more general conflict or to publicize a political or religious cause, to inspire followers to emulate violent attacks, to give vent to deep hatred and the thirst for revenge, and to help undermine governments and institutions designated as enemies by the terrorists.

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