

ETHNIC CONFLICTS

A CASE STUDY OF BALOCHISTAN

CULTURE OF BALOCHISTAN

- Balochi culture is primarily
 - Tribal,
 - deeply patriarchal
 - conservative.
 - Baloch society is dominated by tribal chieftains called Mirs, Sardars and Nawabs, who are the ruling elite of Baluchistan.

HISTORY

- Biggest province in terms of land and natural resources in Pakistan.
- British rule: divided Balochistan into 3 parts
 1. Kalat, Makran, Kharan & Las Bella
 2. British Balochistan
 3. Tribal Area

TREATY GANDAMAK and RED LINE AGREEMENT

- Treaty of Gandamak 1879(Afghan village) ended second Afghan-British war.
- A” Red Line” separated the tribal area with the rest of Baluchistan, as this area was prohibited for Britishers. However, the Red line agreement made it difficult for Britishers to rule according to their free will.
- They sorted out this problem by hiring, intermediaries, those persons who had relations with Britishers and tribal areas.

3rd JUNE PLAN 1947

- **The tribal leaders and municipal authorities decided to annex with Pakistan .**
- **The Khan of Kalat with which British government had agreement claimed Kalat as an independent state like the other states of the subcontinent,**
- **The Baloch legislative assembly at 11 August 1947 announced Baluch independence .In March 1948 government of Pakistan succeeded to enforce Lasbella and Kharan to join Pakistan succeeded by tributaries by March 26, 1948.**

Quaid's policy

- No political Reforms in British rule
- 1929: demand for reforms & Raise the status of Balochistan
- 1948: he announced some token reforms at the occasion of Sibi darbar according to which “Governor general advisory council “was established as an interim representative form of government.
- The members of this council were nominated. The function of this council was to check political, economic, social, educational and administrative plan before its final submission to the Governor General by chief commissioner.

Liaquat Ali Khan 's Policy

- Reform committee on Balochistan to recommend constitutional and administrative changes in Baluchistan.
- After the death of Liaquat ali Khan the report submitted to the constituent assembly recommended the status of Balochistan as Governor's province without disturbing the sardari system.

Series of Insurgencies

- Insurgency means “Arms Struggle”
- Insurgents are non-state actors working against the government mainly for three reasons
 1. struggling for the autonomy or more autonomous status
 2. control over government or sabotaging it
 3. Succession

First insurgency

- 1948
- Khan of kalat declared indepedence on 15 Aug1947
- His brother (karim khan) raised arms against Pakistan.
- Fight with Pakistan army
- Signed an agreement “treaty of accession”
- Karim khan left for Afghanistan led a force of mujahidin

Second insurgency 1958-59

- This insurgent movement was led by Nauroz Khan belonging to Zarakzai tribe, chief of Jhalawan , his position came in third after Khan of Kalat head of confederation established in 1666.
- The very reason of this insurgency was, the arrest of khan of kalat from his palace on 6 of October 1958. The allegation against Khan was that he was not loyal to the state of Pakistan.

Balochistan students Organization

- Formed in 1967
- Demand- opportunities of Education
- Later included all demands of ANP
- Alliances against One-Unit
- Balochi share in services
- Qouta system
- Recognition of Balochi language as medium of education at provincial level

3rd insurgency 1973-75

- Reasons :
- Dissolution of Baluchistan provincial assembly of Ataullah Mengal by ZA Bhutto.
- Bhutto abolished sardari system from Balochistan and introduced political and social reforms.
- Coast Guard Operation 1972
- Situation became more serious when government arrested leading Baloch leaders
- Pat Feeder Disturbance 1972
- Conflict with Jamot Tribe. 1972
- The issue of Iraqi weapons 1972

4th insurgency 2005

- 16 December 2005 with Marri and Bugti tribes due to high level of discontentment. This insurgency included attacks on government installation, target killings in Dera Bugti and Kohlu
 - The raising of a cantonment for brigade in Sui
 - The growing military interference in Dera Bugti Marri area for more drilling rights to Chinese
1. Support for rival tribal forces to Nawab by the government.
 2. Murder of Bugti raised the nationalist feelings because they had more faith on Sardars.

Demands by Balochis.

- Political and economic developments
- Punjabi dominance
- Financial issues (NFC- Population based) This formula provide large share to Punjab whereas the demand of Balochistan to distribute finance on development base because Balochisatn is the most backward province.
- This large province needs attention on emergency basis for the development of its infrastructure. The 85% of its population is scattered in rural areas. There is no way to approach these far-flung areas due to lack of roads. Balochistan receives 5.11% to develop the 43.6% area of the country.
- Natural Resources: royalty issues

Economic & social injustice poorest province, rich in resources

- The percentage of people living below poverty line stands at 26 percent in Punjab, 38 percent in rural Sindh, 29 percent in NWFP and 48 percent in Baluchistan.
- Baluchistan has the highest rate of illiteracy. Estimates for the period 1973-2000 showed that there was a decline in the GDP growth in the case of Baluchistan and Sindh.

Lack of representation

- Balochis are not well represented in the state and central government structures.
- In the armed forces, the number of Baloch has been extremely small.
- In 2002, out of a total of 14 provincial government secretaries in Quetta, only four were Baloch
- Then total of 3,200 students at Balochistan University, fewer than 500 were Baloch
- Out of 180 faculty members, only 30 were Baloch.

Lack of Autonomy

- Under 18th amendment many issues have been solved but they still demand more autonomy
- Under the 18th Amendment, 40 of the 47 subjects in the concurrent list are to be handed over to provinces before the June 30, 2011, deadline set in the package.
- Subjects related to legal, medical and some educational matters in the concurrent list have been shifted to the Federal List Part II, which would fall in the domain of the Council of Common Interests while the rest of the subjects are to be handed over to the provinces within the stipulated deadline.

- **Other issues**

- Missing persons case

- Gwadar port: without prior consent of provincial assembly

- Opponents of building of the cantonment areas that the Government would face a tough resistance if it tried to establish cantonments at Kohlu, Gwadar and Dera Bugti and that the Government would not be able to implement any project at gunpoint and it would meet a tit-for-tat response.

Efforts to uplift

- **AGHAZ-E-HAQOOQ-E-BALOCHISTAN PACKAGE.**
- It comprised over five categories: constitutional, political, administrative, economic and monitoring mechanism.
- It proposed the facilitation of the return of political exiles, release of political workers and political dialogue with all stake-holders.
- 5000 Jobs in different depts (38,000 unemployed graduates had submitted applications under this package, seeking jobs in various federal and provincial departments.)

Mega Projects

- Road construction: link makran to karachi
- Gawadar port
- Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)
- 7th NFC Awards (the federation met the demand of the provincial government for a greater share in the national resources
- The provincial share of the divisible pool was increased from 47.5 percent to 56 percent in the first year of NFC and 57.5 percent in the remaining years of the Award.

In the new award Punjab has given up 1.27 percent, Sindh 0.39 percent and NWFP 0.26 percent, while Balochistan has gained)

Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)

- During the visit to the province on May 2, 2008, Gillani announced that no army action would be carried out in Baluchistan
- The federal government decided to withdraw the Frontier Corps (FC) from Gwadar port and the provincial capital Quetta and handed over the responsibility of managing law and order to the police in the two cities.
- The Government announced the withdrawal of cases against the political prisoners and ordered their release.
- The federal government constituted two committees for Baluchistan, one for missing persons and other for internally displaced persons.

Separatist groups

- Currently, there are at least six active insurgent groups in Baluchistan:
 - the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA),
 - the Baloch Republican Army,
 - the Baloch People's Liberation Front,
 - the Popular Front for Armed Resistance,
 - the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) and
 - BLUF
- In February 2009, BLUF cadres abducted American John Solecki, who headed the UNHCR mission in Balochistan, but freed him unharmed after "much effort, and probably a deal."