

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP DYNAMICS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PAKISTAN AND TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

This article deals with the complicated civil-military relations in Pakistan and Turkey, scrutinizing how civilian rulers have been jockeying with steadily ascendant armed forces over the decades. It makes the deep study of the historical realities as well as the current trends and future possibilities in the efforts to fully discovering the complex balancing act that will make for oversight of democratic governance while still making room for the military influence. Insights for Pakistan and Turkey tackles the above issue; nevertheless, they can teach us how military factors dominate political, economic, and foreign policies. Demonstrating resilience despite the leadership changes and occasional periods of constitutional rule, the military continues to remain the power behind the given government, and therefore, the current authorities are limited to the issues of the leadership dominance by the military. Attention is drawn to the weight of a well-established democratic order and appropriate constitutional basis in maintaining democratic norms, with focus on the judiciary and the media who are major players in the politics as a counter balancing factor in excessive military dominion. Moreover, the external factors and regional dynamics in the civil-military relations are analyzed with purpose of addressing the Pakistan's strategic importance and Turkey's special place as decisive factors in their countries' political spheres on the scope of Researchers explored the causes and effect of the different external factors that play a role in determining which institution has the upper hand. Herein comes this article briefing in a great extent of these complexities of maintaining the balance between army control and democracy in these countries to comprehend as well the similar themes occurred at any more place in the world.

Key Words: Civil-Military Relations, Pakistan, Turkey, Military Influence, Democratic Stability Democratic Norms

INTRODUCTION

Many countries have had political history marked by remarkable interplay between the military and civilian leaders. This case is exemplified in Pakistan and Turkey where this effect is the most intricate and with a long history. They do, on the one hand, belong to different cultural, ethnical and geographical domains but, on the other, both countries have a common history of military operations in the political arena which undermines the civilian governance. This comparison intended to examine the role of the military in political affairs and the relationships between civilian leaders among Pakistan and Turkey. This study seeks to enlighten the public about the influence of military in shaping governing processes of the nations by employing a comprehensive scrutiny of historical contexts, power struggles, and the military's role in governance. In parallel drawing and contrast we can gain patriotic lessons on the wider dynamics of the civil-military

relations. While both Pakistan and Turkey have been going through the military interventions during their political times, but the causes, effects, and results have varied to a large extent. Historical process of military involvement in political realm, from beginning of both countries to present-day, gives us the primary background for the understanding of these complex relations. Such contacts have remained essential in the creation of their political structure and have often culminated in coups and intervention from military forces. The core part of this analysis is the unfolding of the military's dual-function as the protector of national advantages and the effects on economic and social policies. Besides this, the challenges for military control by civilians and the transition to democracy should be noted here showing the difficulties to come up with the best form of civilian leadership. The international dimension of military influence is a significant

geopolitical fact regarding Turkey and Pakistan, and this emphasizes the effect of foreign policy on decision making. The latest events in those countries provide clues for ongoing developments in domestic civil-military relations. During the global observation of the governance and power dynamics, Pakistan and Turkey, knowledge about the military interference in politics is crucial. Such analysis presents an insight into the past efforts and ongoing search of both countries for tactfully balancing the supremacy of civic power over the military command which are valuable lessons and perspectives for the beyond boundary world politics.

Understanding the Historical Context

Evolution of Military Engagement in Politics

The history of military putting itself in politics in Pakistan and Turkey has been the defining feature of a series of events that have influenced their political narrative ever since. In Pakistan the first substantial invasion of the political sphere by the military occurred about one year after independence. The main event was the 1958 military coup, organised by General Ayub Khan, which led to the military involvement in Pakistan as part of political life in this state (according to Talbot 2005). This struggle set a running theme of military interventions, coups and direct military regimes with every intervention attributed to particular motives and circumstances for example (Haqqani, 2005). In a fashion alike, in Turkey, in the early days of the Republic the military organization has been of great importance, since the Turkish military had been even regarded as the protector of Kemalist principles and oftentimes intervened in the domestic politics to uphold the secular and nationalist state ideals. The 1960 military coup against the civil government in Turkey deserves attention as the personification of the military casting itself as a political solver (White, 2013). Studying of these historical landmarks is of vital importance for corresponding military legacy from the beginning to nowadays. Acquaintance with this historical background makes available the concepts of the mechanisms that are at the root of the military's view of politics.

• Military's Impact on Political Landscapes

Being involved in the military surely has great impact on political behaviour of a nation. The distribution of power in the military of these two countries was both essential for the military to direct

the course of their politics. In Pakistan, the institution of the army is seen as a stabilizing factor whenever there are turbulent periods of political crisis; but it has also been the one who hampers or disrupts the civilian government and it has become a key factor to decision-making at the national level (Khan, 2014). The 1977 epoch, which was led by General Zia-Ul-Haq was the most critical turn point in Pakistan's history when the military actively and successfully influenced the country's political environment the government by overthrowing the civilian government which subsequently established the army-led authoritarian regime (Weaver, 1991). Turkey ever since military being at aft center operating of keeping the secular nature of the state engines, political parties and policy decisions while being the reasoning behind the leadership. The "post-modern coup" of 1997 ("February 28 Process") is a case in point illustrating military involvement in politics in Turkey where the government was forced to resign (Yavaz, 2006). This section reviews how the military operates in influencing the political arena by implementing its rules, controlling elections, and setting up the term of contradiction between civil and military leaders. It is very essential to learn the historical past where the military was taking part as a political actor in order to see the concerning politics and obstacles in the contemporary elections in Pakistan and Turkey

Military and Civilian Power Struggles

Amid the complicated situation of civil-military affairs the covert dispute among civilian authorities and military power keeps recurring in Pakistan and Turkey. The following segment will uncover the conflictive relationship between civilians and the military, as well as the historical significance of the coups in the political development of these countries.

• Civil Administration with or Without the Military Influence.

The balance and power relations between civilian governments and the armed forces in Pakistan and Turkey have been the major features of their governance system. In Pakistan military was often with the civilian leadership, and the former often tried to present itself as a guardian of national interests (Wehrey, 2013). With fluctuating balance of power in the country there is a fight for influence over the policies, resources, and decision making mechanism of the state (Rizvi, 2013). On the other

hand, by the Turkish military's historical role of the secular state defender, has resulted in a frequent clash with the governments, especially the Islamic-rooted governments (Tugal, 2016). The power fight between the military and civilian leadership have significantly shaped the course of these countries in many ways.

• Role of armed forces and military interventions in crises management.

The military coups and interventions are the two major factors that have shown significant influence on the political voyage of both Pakistan and Turkey. In Pakistan, coups and interventions have been very common, leading to the detach of government which is civilian, and the installing of military rule (Jalal, 1991). The 1977 coup led by General Zia-ul-Haq drastically changed Pakistans political landscape, bringing in a period of military rule that lasted up to 10 years (Weaver, 1991). The Turkish military has previously intervened in civilian politics in order to protect the secular constitution, as seen during the coups. The 1980 military coup became a live example of direct military interference in governance which resulted in a transition to authoritarian rule with widespread political repression (Yavuz, 2006). The background of coups and military interventions is really important to understand the degree of military power and how it affects democratic governance in the said countries. The two contradictory powers, namely the scuffling of the civil authority against the military interventions, have an ability to shape their political destiny and the democratic advance.

The Military's Role in Governance

In Pakistan and Turkey, the influence of the military on the governance has been crucial in creating a unique footprint on the country's political, economic and social domains. In this, the focus is on the military's twofold function as a guardian of national interests and the aftermath of military rule on economic and social policies.

Military being a Steward of National Security.

The military in both Pakistan and Turkey always has wished to be recognized as the keeper of national interest. The military in Pakistan has been instrumental in keeping the nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty, which has further consolidated its role in governance since a very long

time (Kibria, 1995). It took a position of a military entity committed to defend national security interests of Pakistan that results in more active involvement in foreign policy issues and regional conflicts (Cohen, 2004). Turkish military, as an institution, always kept faith in the secular state and looked upon itself as a guardian of Kemalism so that it always wanted to enforce its view of governance to establish the secular characterization of the state (Kalaycioglu, 2005). The military, it is perceived, occupies the core of the state's ideological regularity.

The next part of the essay is going to study why the military perceived intervening in governance as vital with regards to retaining national interests that include the preservation of state as one whole, security and ideology of the country.

The Effects of the Military Regime on economic and social policies.

The military regimes of Pakistan and Turkey during those periods placed vital, lasting imprints on their economic and social policies. The economic and strategic policies in Pakistan in the hands of military regimes led by figures like General Ayub Khan and Zia-ul-Haq have significantly contributed to the state-led development and formulation of strategic partnerships, mainly, but not exclusively, with the US, during Cold War Era (Ziring, 1998). The influence that military regime has on social policies in Pakistan is quite an interesting phenomenon as the focus shifts from social changes to the promotion of conservative values during certain eras (Khan, 2014). In Turkey, the military coups affected greatly on the economic policies more specifically via the introduction of market reforms and pursuance of economic stability (Erdem, 2011). The social policies in particular have been shifted by the military, as it has traditionally emphasized secularism and in some cases has imposed limits on the religious practices (Kuru, 2009).

This chapter discusses the affects of military regimes on economic and social policies and how these legacies hold consequences for development of the two countries.

Civilian Control and Democratization

The handling of the transition from military regime to democracy and the balance of power between the two authorities are key elements in terms to understand the changing interaction between civil and military authorities in Pakistan and Turkey. This

part is about the hurdles and successes in the course of the transition to democracy. Also it deals with various measures taken by civil authorities to contain the military influence.

• **Transitioning to democracy: Challenges and assets**

The route to political responsibility under democracy in Pakistan as well as Turkey have been extremely bumpy. The case of Pakistan is a mixture of democratic regimes, together with periods of military dominance and instability seasonally. The transition to democracy, mostly when the previous regimes have been military, has mainly been connected to instabilities of government, revisions to constitutional structures, and some conflicts. In Turkey, the process of living democracy has the obstacle of struggling against the principle role of the military as guardians of the secular state. The pathway leading to gaining and sustaining democracy has been very complex containing struggles and events like confrontations with the military and efforts to diminish its influence (Cizre, 2018).

The section of the segment studies the challenges that constrained the transition to democracy and the progress that was made in the establishment of democratic governance through military intervention and the lasting remnants of military rule.

Achieving civilian-military equality is the aim of Civilian Leadership.

Generally, government institutions in Pakistan and Turkey have deliberately been made to take effective measures in the process of minimizing the role of military forces and making it possible to dominate armed forces. Pakistani civilian wielders of power try to regain civilian primacy and restrict military contribution in governing the state (Haqqani, 2005). It is often the political leaders who are involved in deciding how civil and military entities should work together in their quest to bring and maintain democratic stability in many cases (Talbot 2005). Turkish authorities have striven to confront the military coup through law reforms and political strategies (Sayari, 1983). Traditional Kemalists governing elites have gradually come across many challenges and civilian politicians have shown that they will not stop to assert authority, despite military's attempt (White, 2013).

International Relations and Military Influence

Pakistan and Turkey's interaction between military and civilian leadership is influenced significantly by military influence. In this segment, we examine the geopolitical importance of these nations, as well as their implications and the military's role in shaping foreign policy.

Geopolitical Significance and Its Ramifications.

Pakistan and Turkey are those two countries whose geostrategic position heavily influence their foreign relation and domestic sphere. With Pakistan geographically located between India and Afghanistan and holding the nuclear capability as well, it becomes a crucial country which shapes regional as well as global politics (Cohen, 2004). This role in the US-led anti-terrorist warfare and its influence on the regional affairs in South Asia highlight the strategic importance of Afghanistan. Being the area at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Turkey has had a reputation of being a mediator between the different civilizations and cultures (Lyon, 2013). The NATO membership of this country, the EU membership candidacy and the engagement in the Middle East region have made it a crucial actor in international relations.

This part looks into geopolitical significance of Pakistan and Turkey and how their strategic locations affect foreign policy, security measures, and international relations.

• **Military Role in the Foreign Policy Formulation**

The army has been an important factor in shaping foreign-policy decisions of Pakistan as well as Turkey. In Pakistan, the military has consistently been the most influential factor in foreign policy in the decisive cases of India, Afghanistan and United States (Rizvi, 2013). Its effect on foreign policy has contributed enormously to the evolution of the country's relations with other states and security dynamics. The military of Turkey, traditionally, affects foreign policy, especially concerning the Middle East and Turkey's relations with Western countries (Lyon, 2013). Such impact can be easily seen in Turkey's foreign policy line, which has been shifting back and forth between the West and the regional sphere.

This portion reviews the military's role in shaping countries' foreign policy and the influence of this activity on Pakistan and Turkey's international relations. In this section, we explain how countries'

military participation in foreign policy has both changed their attitudes toward global matters and their interactions with other countries.

The present situation of civil-military relations in Pakistan and Turkey call for an analysis of the recent events and evaluating the current efforts to establish a viable civil command while the military is still a powerful factor.

Recent Progress in Pakistan and Turkey

The political advancements of Pakistan have lately offered a multifaceted view of civil and military relations. 2018 general elections proved to be a milestone in the history of Pakistan's democracy when a change of power from civilian into the civilian government happened for the very first time peacefully. (Zaidi, 2019). A successful transition shows evidence that democracy is gaining ground. Still, disputes emerge amid a decrease in overt coups although the military's role. The army still considers itself to be the absolute decision-maker in the areas of national defense and international relations (Iqbal, 2020). It is inconclusive what future awaits us between a mature democracy with civil power masters or military rulers having the ultimate say on significant policies and sanctions.

Turkey witnessed revolutionary political transformations such as a failed coup plotting in 2016 and its response, which resulted in a state of exception, purges across state bodies. This revolution had a bigger impact on the political prospect in the country, only the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan remained in power, however the military was also reformed (Çaha, 2020). In this context of regional afflictions and geopolitical intricacies, the problem of power division between military and civilian forces appears especially sharp, particularly against the backdrop of political polarization.

This part of the article provides expert analysis of recent developments in Pakistan and Turkey, thus giving attention to the dynamics of civil-military relations that are the present realities in these two countries.

Struggling for the Sustainability of Civilian Leadership

Sustainable civil governance should be the key topic on political developments agendas of both Pakistan and Turkey. This purpose can be accomplished only

if a strong and healthy balance between the civil authorities and the military is set up.

Pakistan initiated programs that aim at strengthening the democratic establishment and improve civilian military relations (Iqbal, 2020). That part consists in the establishment of the parliamentary committees which control military and national security to avoid an undue influence of military in the political decisions. Ultimately, the success of these efforts the possibilities of sustainable civilian power and democratic rule.

In the case of Turkey, building civilian control over the armed forces has been a main goal and military politicians have had been constrained by the measures adopted (Kuru, 2013). The Constitutional referendum of 2017 extended the executive authority, redrew the political landscape and, consequently, redistributed the power between civilian/military spheres. Whether or not the dynamic and effectiveness of such efforts are maintained will set the course not only of these countries, but also of their relationships with each other.

This part deals with the quest of civil power sustainability, focusing on the difficulties of maintaining concord between military and civilized concepts, and its relation to political equilibrium and growth of democracy in Pakistan and Turkey.

It considers the evolution of a system of self-governance whereby the civilian authorities would run the state on their own with the military as something in the past.

Conclusion

Both civil-military relations of Pakistan and Turkey are instructional, to a certain extent, how does the balance of power between military and civilian control is attained. These two countries therefore present us with the cases in point allowing for the understanding of the fact that the issue of achieving of the democratic stability and the equilibrium between the legitimacy of the civilian authority and the participation of the military in the country is dynamic and ongoing. Demands of cultivating democratic governance and military interventions still persist in either Pakistan or Turkey and they still have hurdles in relation to overcoming influences of the military in mature democracies.

The predominant reason behind is the military that sustain its dominant rule in case of polity, economy and foreign affairs of both these countries Pakistan

and Turkey. However both countries had the transitions between democracy and military but the latter had been a formidable institution and had a significantly powerful influence. The lessons accrued only serve to highlight the complexities of restricting military operations within the democratic context.

Further, through looking at the cases of the works of the institutions with strong constitutional frameworks in Pakistan and Turkey, one can worse appreciate democratic norms depend on the conditions the countries. However, seemingly opposition and obstacles to civil governance have yielded inter-organizational resilience (particularly of the persevering independent judiciary and free press). Hence, these institutions have been instrumental in restraining the military from unraveling politics. The case indicates here the significance of a robust democratic framework on which the civil supervision depends.

Besides, the question of what the external forces and regional dynamics can do to civil-military relations is pointed out as another vital matter. Pakistan's geo strategic importance, essentially in anti-terrorism campaign, has made the outside powers to a great extent dictate internal matters. Just like the geomedaily position of Turkey as a principal bridge between Europe and Asia, and in this context of the Middle East, which would seem to be so complicated, has put the power of the country at the mercy of geopolitical agendas in the region and the world. It is imperative to have such knowledge and how this may lead to civic-military relations.

The striving of Pakistani-Turkish democratic stability still proceeding and it shows global challenges sizing up. However, Pakistan which is seeking to make its democracy strong has also observed the military of the country which having yielding greater impact in the national security and foreign policy segments. Mature democracy with a stable civilian participation comes a long way down the road. In turkey, there was a structural change with the government of president Erdoğan that raised concerns over the possibility of the emergence of a democratic system led by civilian authorities rather than the military. It will be the delicate balance between civilian regimes and military foundations which will determine the political phenomena of the two countries: Pakistan and Turkey. Creating a consonant balance reflecting democratic basics, protecting the civil authority and recognizing the

military duties as a security pillar remains as the core of the problem. The future of civil-military relations in these states and globally, in a multicultural world, undoubtedly continues to raise important questions on the role of the armed forces in the civilians' world while also trying to balance out the interests of both parties.

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