

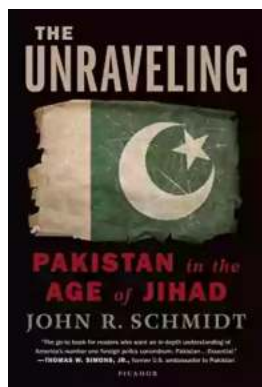
# The Unraveling Pakistan In The Age Of Jihad

In recent decades, Pakistan has become an unstable battleground for extremist ideologies and terrorist activities. The rise of jihad in the region has greatly impacted the political, economic, and social fabric of this once vibrant nation. This article aims to delve into the factors that have contributed to the unraveling of Pakistan, as well as the implications it carries for global security.

## The Historical Context

Pakistan, a country carved out of India during the partition in 1947, has always struggled with its identity and governance. The tensions between its Muslim majority and the Hindu population in India have fueled internal conflicts and societal divisions. However, it was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s that significantly transformed Pakistan's trajectory.

Backed by the United States, Pakistan became a crucial ally in the fight against communism. An extensive network of jihadist training camps was established, attracting fighters from around the world to join the ranks. The seeds of religious extremism were sown, and Pakistan found itself caught in a web of violence and radicalization.



## The Unraveling: Pakistan in the Age of Jihad

by John R. Schmidt(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 289 pages



## **The Rise of Taliban**

With the end of the Afghan war, many battle-hardened militants returned to Pakistan, bringing with them extremist ideologies and a burning desire to establish an Islamic state. The Taliban, an ultra-conservative Islamist group, soon emerged as a dominant force in the region. Their brutal rule in Afghanistan served as an inspiration for various extremist organizations within Pakistan.

The tribal areas, particularly along the border with Afghanistan, became hotbeds of militancy. Lawlessness, drug trafficking, and insurgent activities plagued the region, undermining the authority of the state. Pakistan's security forces struggled to contain the growing influence of militant groups, leading to a surge in devastating terrorist attacks.

## **The Impact on Governance**

Infiltration of extremist elements into Pakistan's political system has long been a concern. Radicalized leaders, disguised as champions of Islam, have garnered public support and gained footholds within the government. This infiltration compromises the country's democratic process and weakens its institutions, impeding effective governance.

The sectarian divide in Pakistan further exacerbates these challenges. Sunni-Shia tensions have fueled violence and targeted killings, further dividing an already polarized society. Radicalized groups exploit these divisions, leading to a cycle of vengeance and instability.

## **Economic Consequences**

The effects of the unraveling Pakistan are not confined to its political and social spheres alone, but also extend to its economy. Foreign investment has declined significantly due to security concerns, hindering economic growth and exacerbating unemployment. Rampant corruption, mismanagement, and lack of basic infrastructure further cripple Pakistan's economic potential.

The war against terrorism has also been a costly burden on Pakistan's economy. Military operations, along with the upkeep of security apparatus, drain valuable resources that could have been utilized for social development. The nation's debt burden has skyrocketed, pushing it further towards financial instability.

## **Global Security Implications**

The unraveling of Pakistan has far-reaching global security implications. Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, the fastest-growing in the world, becomes a subject of concern. The fear that extremist elements could gain access to nuclear weapons or materials creates a new level of anxiety in an already volatile region.

The presence of militant sanctuaries in Pakistan poses a threat to regional stability. These sanctuaries provide safe havens for terrorists, allowing them to plan and execute attacks not only within the country but also across international borders. The spillover effect of terrorism emanating from Pakistan can destabilize neighboring countries and hinder their development.

## **The Way Forward**

Addressing the challenges faced by Pakistan requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach. The government must prioritize counterterrorism efforts and strengthen its security apparatus to combat extremist ideologies effectively. Promoting educational reforms, including curricula that foster tolerance and critical thinking, is vital to countering radicalization.

Pakistan's economic revival is imperative to alleviate the socio-economic conditions that breed extremism. Attracting foreign investment, improving governance, and enhancing public services will help create a stable environment conducive to growth and development.

The international community also has a role to play in supporting Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts. Sharing intelligence, providing technical assistance, and offering economic aid can contribute to stabilizing the country and mitigating global security risks.

Pakistan's unraveling in the age of jihad poses significant challenges, not only for the nation itself but also for regional and global security. It is essential for Pakistan to address the root causes of extremism, strengthen its institutions, and forge alliances with the international community to regain stability and pave the way for a prosperous future.



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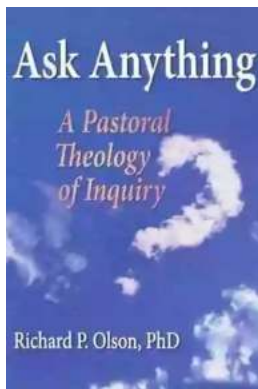


How did a nation founded as a homeland for South Asian Muslims, most of whom follow a tolerant nonthreatening form of Islam, become a haven for Al Qaeda and

a rogue's gallery of domestic jihadist and sectarian groups?

In this groundbreaking history of Pakistan's involvement with radical Islam, John R. Schmidt, the senior U.S political analyst in Pakistan in the years before 9/11, places the blame squarely on the rulers of the country, who thought they could use Islamic radicals to advance their foreign policy goals without having to pay a steep price. This strategy worked well at first--in Afghanistan during the anti-Soviet jihad, in Kashmir in support of a local uprising against Indian rule, and again in Afghanistan in backing the Taliban in the Afghan civil war. But the government's plans would begin to unravel in the wake of 9/11, when the rulers' support for the U.S. war on terror caused many of their jihadist allies to turn against them. Today the army generals and feudal politicians who run Pakistan are by turns fearful of the consequences of going after these groups and hopeful that they can still be used to advance the state's interests.

The Unraveling is the clearest account yet of the complex, dangerous relationship between the leaders of Pakistan and jihadist groups—and how the rulers' decisions have led their nation to the brink of disaster and put other nations at great risk. Can they save their country or will we one day find ourselves confronting the first nuclear-armed jihadist state?



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