STATE'S RESPONSE TO UPRISING: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF STATE STRATEGIES TO GOVERN INTERNAL CRISES

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Abstract:

This qualitative research identifies the patterns of crisis governance in states having crises and conflicting situations. It explores the responses to political uprisings in the states under consideration and what lessons can be drawn from cross-case comparative experiences. This study analyses the American Civil war (1861-65), Tiananmen Square incident (1989) and Ridda Wars (632 A.D.) in Early Islamic Caliphate governance to devise framework that includes the legitimacy and leadership in decision making, narrative building, institutional resilience and other learning outcomes. Findings reveal that crisis governance is more than just using coercion, it requires a balance in decision making that is adapted and taken step by step to create sustainable peace while keeping the state legitimacy intact. This paper offers context specific recommendations for Pakistan and a synthetic framework that will provide a blue print to study crisis administration and public administration resilience in South Asia for future researches.

Keywords: Crisis governance, civil uprising, conflict resolution, political realism, public administration resilience, leadership.

Introduction:

Crisis governance is usually regarded as how the events of disruption that occur suddenly, are responded by the government or state institutions. It is when a group or a community experiences "serious threat to the basic structures or the fundamental values and norms of a system, which under time pressure and highly uncertain circumstances necessitates the making of vital decisions" (Boin et al., 2018) These events act as a threat to the security and stability of the society, hence adversity of wide variety can be included in that. Usually, a crisis is attached with climate or natural disasters, crises like pandemics and events such as economic recession or terrorism attacks.

There is a dire need to redefine crisis governance as per the local context of Pakistan because it is a rare case when imported models address problems by keeping in view the historical, cultural and social realities. Pakistan's colonial legacy of all institutions, ethnic heterogeneity and authoritarianism within, requires tailored approaches as per the system (Sahito et al., 2022). The federal-provincial dynamics, socio-economic deficiencies in terms of literacy and other vulnerabilities requires governance

methods deep rooted in indigenous realities. (Zia-ur-Rehman, 2023) Sudden transformations are difficult to achieve but lessons can be learned from other examples.

The question here is why South Asia needs to be under the radar of transformation when it comes to the crisis governance. It is because the region has faced the most natural, social, political, economic and ethnic turmoils since the start of history. With countries like Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan having an unfortunate history of terrorism, civil uprisings and insurgencies, their political fragility and governance challenges are not hidden from the world. Understanding the crisis responding techniques adopted by other states to recover from it and reform under internal and external pressures. (Afjal, 2023) Corruption, Bureaucratic inefficiencies, elite politics, military establishment and politicized judiciary weaken the state institutions and trust of the citizens. Institutional weakness and fragility are reflected in the mismanagement of crises situation, where inconsistent policymaking paves way for the public to stand against the government. (Dahal, 2010)

The findings in this research include a detailed analysis on how the constructivism built around the incidents of 1989 China and the American civil war, whether positive or negative, is less important when we deeply go into the crisis leadership and how that was carried out in both cases. The Islamic cases prove the results of solid ideological orientation lead towards outcomes that are morally and ethically sound. All three cases belong to completely different times and centuries, yet the government responses as per the conditions give valuable lessons for Pakistan to carry out crisis governance systematically while keeping the local context and state integrity intact. Analysis suggests the importance of leadership, decentralization, morality, democracy, authoritarianism at certain times, discussion and deliberation and systematic preparedness for the imminent crises.

This study is unique in nature to propose policy recommendations for civil society of Pakistan; important for a blended government where public welfare and national interest are equally important and must be carried out side by side.

Methodology:

This comparative study is based on the qualitative design by using case study analysis with the help of secondary data. Data has been collected via historical discourse around the case studies, journal articles, historical encyclopedias, books and newspaper articles found through their webpages. Data was compared among the case studies and analyzed after formulating a synthetic framework, both for the stages involved in conflict management, and the characteristics involved in an effective crisis management at state level.

The case studies have been chosen from three different ages, i.e. The 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, The American Civil War (1861-65) and the Rashidun Caliphate leadership for internal dissent during early Islamic system. The first one is considered a taboo in China as the world remembers it as an authoritarian aggressiveness. The second case is celebrated as the strengthening of federalism and the abolition of slavery. The third case is the crisis governance carried out under Caliphates in Early Islamic

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public Administration. The similarity of these cases lies in the states fighting competing systems of beliefs, i.e. liberalism vs political realism, ensuring political control, national and religious legitimacy, along with keeping up the state unity (Ikenberry, 2009).

Interpretivist epistemology and constructivist ontology has been applied in this study (SagePub, 2018). The principles for the synthetic framework have been adopted from critical analysis and interpretation of the works of Arjen Boin, Paul 't Hart, Allan McConnell, and Ian Mitroff (Boin et al., 2018) (Boin et al., 2009) (Boin & McConnell, 2010) (Boin & Hart, 2003) (Mitroff et al., 1987) (Smalyuk, 2025) along with the stages of conflict resolution adopted from ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) method that was basically designed for commercial and community level civic disputes. It is developed from the perspective of how government can manage and learn from the crisis situation. Findings paved the way to recommend lessons for Pakistan relevant to its political and institutional context.

Research Objectives:

o   The main objective is to develop a synthetic framework, for conflict management and crisis governance applicable at state level.

o   To compare the case studies and analyze the stages and responses adopted by the states under consideration.

o   To identify the generalizable principles transcending the regime types, cultural setups and time periods, under the synthetic framework.

o   To discuss and recommend critical, context sensitive insights for Pakistan as per its regional and local context, contributing through valuable lessons from the comparative framework.

Research Question:

1. How the different state systems have historically governed the conflicting situations arising from civil uprisings, and what common patterns can be extracted from them in terms of "crisis governance"?

2. What type of criteria for crisis governance can be adapted to strengthen public administration resilience for trying times in Pakistan within its local context?

Literature Review:

Situations like civil uprisings, secessionist movements and other political upheavals, fall within the premises of "crisis"; as they challenge peace and state authority. (IESS, 2025)The process adopted by the government to resolve the rebellions and strikes through Alternative Dispute Resolution methods such as negotiation, reforms and in extreme cases; use of force and law enforcement tools is the learning outcome for the rest of the world. Governments are bound to take any method that is deemed appropriate as per time and space. (Erbe, 2004)

Two terms come in handy when describing the structured measures to such emergencies threatening the institutions or the individuals, at organizational level. These are "crisis intervention" and

"crisis management". The first one focuses on intervening the situation for the immediate stabilizing measures to take, such as temporary peace, immediate first aid, talks and counselling. The later involves planning, coordinating and strategizing the prevention of crisis by devising long term strategies to build resilience (Hayes, 2024). For the state level crisis, means providing diagnosis for the root cause, for instance in COVID-19, immediate intervention included emergency measures such as lockdown, whereas crisis management involved international cooperation and economic recovery policy making.

Going back in history, Thomas Hobbes, one of the contractualists, was looking at solutions to conflicts such as civil uprising and wars. For him, absolute sovereign authority should be the respondent of the civil uprisings by preserving order through enforced obedience and quelling dissent through maintaining fear enables collective survival and stability. (Finn, 2025)

Partha Chatterji was of the view that South Asians are used to engage with informal institutions such as religious groups and local actors or committees in times of crisis, associating with local associations who are the mediators. Such as squatter settlements in Kolkata. These can be sometimes outside of the legal and political framework. (Chatterjee, 2004)

Amartya Sen argued the grassroot level deprivation of basic necessities is linked to the uprisings and can only be suppressed if citizens are entertained in terms of economic, social and political justice (Vellem, 2016).This shows that Western methods act against these societies as the mediators chosen by the public show indigenous culture, traditions and kinship networks are favoured locally. Amartya Sen argued through the study of Indian Communal riots and how peace was brought about local councils and panchayats, through rituals, religious and faith leaders. Going towards Francis Fukuyama, he discussed the strength of state institutions deciding the occurrence of uprising. Even in East Asia, context specific reforms, Confucianism, and other historical lessons of resilience of courts, bureaucracy and law, hard work brought about peace (Fukuyama, 2013). But governments like that of US used media coercion and propaganda to declare the uprisings in Vietnam and Latin America after intervention, as irrational. This shows elitist manipulation.

Some scholars are of the view that state uses unconstitutional and emergency powers to declare even the rational uprisings as "terror". (McGovern, 2011) Whereas David Easton saw uprisings as a source of feedback from citizens and a chance to revise policies on demands (Rai, 2023). Scholars such as Karl Deutsch (Deutsch, 1975), Manuel Castells (Aarts, 2013), Robert Putnam (Woodward, 2025) consider civil disengagement, miscommunication and unresponsive government the source of civil unrest and tumult.

South Asia's colonial history is the main culprit behind the governance structures that happen to be ineffective in all situations, as they are borrowed from the British administration, having an entirely different local context, culture, ethnicity and traditions. The norm of authoritarian and military interventions with external powers controlling every policy and decision making has created democratic deficits. (A. W. Khan et al., 2024)

As per Bruce Chadwick, civil war occurs through multifaceted causes. He used the American

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civil war as an example that not only slavery, but religious and ministerial points, agrarian problems and elections were the major part of the intrastate war. (Chadwick, 2025)

Barbara Walter has argued that states are in the know when the rebellions will demand concessions. Negotiation is not always the solution as it depicts the state as a weak one. (Walter, 2009) The support systems of those deep pocketed groups must be navigated already by the government, such as the IRA's funding was known to Margaret Thatcher s government. Reason for long lasting military-invaded victories is that there are no commitment issues. Studies have shown 50 percent of the cases reverting back to conflicts if dealt with negotiations, while it is only 15 percent in case of military coercion. Commitments remain unfulfilled where there is no third party involved. (Walter, 2009)

Continuous conflicts and uprisings result in underdeveloped societies, depending upon the conflict intensity. Resources are drained and dependency on foreign aid increases. 20 to 80 percent food aid was looted in Somalia in the 90s (Findley, 2018). But that is not a universal rule. Thailand has a history of managing its communist insurgency using development of poor communities from grass root level to address the actual causes. King Bhumibol used moral grounds and appeals, negotiation, political reconciliation resulting in internal splits and peaceful end to those insurgency activities (Blue, 2020) Leadership styles include autocratic style where subordinates carry little to no say, democratic or participative style to create collaborative harmony but is time taking, goal-oriented style to set small goals for the subordinates and the situational style of leadership that is flexible to adopt different styles and strategies as and when required (Yaseen, 2011)

Theoretical Framework: A Synthetic Framework for Crisis Governance

This study has been conducted using a theoretical framework that has been synthetically devised by the researcher, combining the works related to crisis management and governance discussions on leadership, preparedness, decision making, conflict resolution methods, learning and adaptation, communication and narrative control. The principles of the framework for this study has been extracted from critical analysis and interpretation of the works of Arjen Boin, Paul 't Hart, Allan McConnell, and Ian Mitroff (Boin et al., 2018) (Boin et al., 2009) (Boin & McConnell, 2010) (Boin & Hart, 2003) (Mitroff et al., 1987) (Smalyuk, 2025) along with the stages of conflict resolution and other studies. The following framework has been developed from the perspective of how government can manage and learn from the crisis situation. This is an effort to provide a balanced tool to identify key stages for crisis governance and how it differs when different case studies are compared through this framework.

Following are the basic characteristics of an effective crisis management in public administration in terms of uprisings.

1. Decision-Making Processes and Role of Leadership:

The whole load comes at the decision-making process and structures adopted at the required time. This involves some major points to be kept ahead when initiating the decisions. The first one is whether the decisions are kept centralized in the hands of a few to manipulate them as required, or it is decentralized and the system if swift to consult and collaborate with all the key actors and state institutions in deciding the next move. Role of leadership is another important factor in deciding how

the crisis is going to be governed. Style, vision, and the authoritative power of leadership decides the balance. What should be the next step, strategies, institutions to be mobilized and what should be the priority; unity, writ of the state, survival, reforms and adaptation, albeit everything relies on the leadership during turbulence. (Boin & Hart, 2003)

As proposed by Mitroff et al (1987), the detection of early warning signs leading to crisis need to be studied, but is extremely difficult to detect as the crisis situation has no definite start or an end. Preparedness has been stated as a key. This is actually impossible at state level, to know beforehand what public is up to. Thus, the only thing that can be made possible under the umbrella of "preparedness" is the capacity to make swift decisions, to listen to civilian stance, to understand the causes of their protests and rebellious actions, and to be prepared if force (military might) is necessary or simple negotiation and talks will work out the crisis situation.

2. Communication and Propaganda

How the government communicates at a tumultuous time with the civilians is a major factor. Either the narrative is controlled and disseminated as a propaganda to maintain state's legitimacy, or citizens are taken into confidence by proper discussions and table talks to unify them on one page. The former one shapes the perspective of how the situation must be perceived by the world and the later one is used to actually being transparent, accepting the reality and making efforts to eradicate the root cause. (Boin et al., 2009) (Boin et al., 2021)

3. Use of negotiation and Coercion

A defining instrument is whether force is going to be used on the civilians. This is guided by the legal frameworks such as martial law and emergency powers for the leaders, where they get to decide at wat point should the military or paramilitary forces must be deployed. It can be used temporarily to bring peace by just acting as a warning sign, or it can be used in full force as an aggression against the citizens. This reflects how a state negotiates at the time of crisis, by unnecessary coercion or unavoidable forcing. Usually, the use of physical force has direct relation with creating divisions between government and citizens. (Liu, 2022)

4. Institutional Capacity and Coordination

State coordinating with government institutions, military and paramilitary force, law enforcement agencies and other interstate organizations is an immediate state response. Non-state actors such as Non-governmental Organizations, activist groups, religious leaders and other international organizations are also contacted as a third party or mediators (Ansell et al., 2016) It includes how the government mobilizes the resources such as allocating troops, which areas to be prioritized and how much funds shall be disbursed. This includes how prepared the government is to decide what would be the consequences of such events how, especially in terms of economic repercussions and infrastructural damage.

5. Human Rights, legitimacy and Civil Liberties

As a result of crisis, government can use tactics such as suppressing the freedom of speech and

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media involvement. This creates a blurred line between repression and saving the state's image, or simply saving the legitimacy of state's authority. Another point is whether the government is holding accountability to protect the human rights to strengthen democracy and civic values, or the repression only is used to just quell the rebellion. (Boin et al., 2008)

6. Long-Term Consequences and Reforms

How crisis gets managed to reshape the state structure completely by taking long term measures and how citizens are influenced to keep their trust on the institutions is a part of the crisis governance. It can be made a turning point for the future of the government to use it for growth and development, or it can be used to shut the rebellious voices completely.

Extending beyond borders, it is the duty of government to navigate beforehand what would be the effects on international relations. How are they going to handle international pressures, opinions, condemnation of certain political rights groups, intervention from international organizations, etc. This shows how interconnected is the crises. Diplomatic navigation is called as a critical process to gain legitimacy externally, or the other option is to seek isolation.

Alternative Dispute Resolution:

Although ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) was basically designed commercial and community level civic disputes, but its principles when added with other methods, can be effectively applied to govern the crisis situation at state level. (Erbe, 2004) (CLG, 2025)For this study, ADR has been utilized as a comparative framework to analyse our case studies on the basis of stages like negotiation, mediation, arbitration along with deterrence, and military intervention. This will help the readers to understand how governments responded to crisis situation and how they followed the non-violent steps till the use of unavoidable military force.

- **Negotiation:** The starting point to resolute conflict where opposing parties, either both or one of them creates dialogue to reach a mutually acceptable peace agreement by identifying root causes.

- **Mediation:** A third party is involved to facilitate conflicting sides and clarify any misunderstandings instead of enforcement of solutions.

- **Arbitration:** a neutral body that delivers a binding "award" after listening to conflicting parties for achieving flexible process to offer solutions.

- **Deterrence:** this is a warning treatment to strategically use as a threat under coercive diplomacy to maintain order. (Mazarr, 2025)

- **Military Order**: Military might is used as a last option to maintain order and peace, using military and paramilitary forces.

Case Studies under radar:

To derive lessons for crisis governance, historical events are used as case study, with the details of three most important world events, i.e., Ridda or Apostasy Wars In early Islam (7th century), American civil war (1861-1865) and Tiananmen Square Protests of 1989. These are comparatively analyzed to see

all the possible angles of why the state action was important in these events of civil unrests, as per their local context. What were the state responses, whether they used all methods of dispute resolution, the circumstances, the international politics of their times and the possibility of a total opposite history. Though they were initiated from within the civilians, but the non-state actors and international actors played a major role as the interferers in domestic politics.

1: American civil war (1861-1865)

American civil war was the deadliest one that took more than 800000 lives. Started from the issue of slavery and how the Southerners were neglectful in obeying the laws and regulations given by the federal government, it transformed into a secessionist movement by the confederates. Time passed by and other factors along with the main cause created a war like situation for about five years. It all ended with the Union victory and the abolition of slavery in papers, the ending of secessionist movements and a bright political and economic future for the rest of the world to see (Hassler & Jennifer, 2025) (Editors, 2009)

2: Tiananmen Square Protests of 1989:

Tiananmen protests were done by the students, intellectuals, teachers that were anxious about the chaotic state of the nation, happens to every emerging economy, usually. Weary of the past, they came to the streets, performing hunger strikes with the demands of freedom of speech and protection of democratic values after the death of democratic champion, Hu Yao bang. While it was the start of China's movement towards betterment, international relations and trade policies, visit of Mikhail Gorbachev of Russia was a ray of hope. With the ongoing unrest and its excitement to international media, negotiations were welcomed with the students. Production of no results with persistent attitudes made the state take military might to clear the square. It resulted in the death of hundreds of protestors, some of them jailed while those who fled from the country were not allowed to come again. (Frontline, 2019)

3: 7th Century Ridda or Apostasy Wars in Early Islam:

The Ridda wars, also known as Apostasy War, is a series of crisis events that occurred in 7th century Islamic era. These were military campaigns against disbelievers and numerous Arabic tribes that renounced Islamic principles right after the demise of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). They refused to pay alms tax or zakat, a necessary pillar of Islam, to the new caliph of Madina, thereby influencing the other tribes to do the same and disregard religious and political authority (Holmes, 2023)

Hazrat Abubakar Siddique (R.A.) was the first Rashidun Caliph and under his leadership, Muslims gathered and armies were made ready to quell the rebellion and combat those professing anti-Islamic sentiments, especially against the self-proclaimed prophets who took advantage of the demise of Prophet (PBUH) and started conspiracies. The conflicts gave way to battles such as that of Yamama that decided the fate of Islamic administration. It resulted in victory of the caliphate, and Arabian Peninsula came under the authority of the Madina

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instead of falling into politico religious conflicts. (Wikipedia, 2025c)

Why these Case studies?

The answer is that these two events involving civil uprising are coming from "United States of America" and "People's Republic of China", the two economic, political, and technologically developed giants of the 21st century. America is considered as the largest liberal democratic country with a federal constitutional presidential government. Being liberated from British colonies in a revolutionary war and gaining independence was the first success. On the other hand, China is a republic with one party state system. Being at the top of economy, social and technological development and justice, China is mentioned as autocratic, conservative state in international arena. These are the two economic giants and a model of development in present world. Ridda wars have been chosen as a case study because of its importance to save the Islamic ummah and its government in the Arabian Peninsula, after which Islam flourished with full zeal.

Conflict Management stages	State's Response in American Civil War (1861-65)	State's Response in Tiananmen Square Incident	State's Response in Early Islamic Jihaad (7th Century)
Negotiation	Crittenden's compromise (remained unsuccessful). Gettysburg's address. Lincoln's 1863 conciliatory plans to end the secessionist ideas.	Zhao Ziyang attempting to convince protestors. May 18 and 19 appeals to student leaders and visits of hospitalized hunger strikers. Li Peng's televised meetings to negotiate.	Hazrat AbuBakr (R.A.) sent envoys to the rebellious tribes to make them understand. Some of the tribes reconciled. Army trained and set on standby.
Mediation	Britain offering a peaceful closure to the conflict by advising govt. Of the Union to accept South's secession.	Government advising the protestors to present there demands later and peacefully end the protests to avoid severe consequences.	Adi ibn Hatim mediating with Tayy Tribe. Peaceful coexisting mechanisms as per constitution of Medina+ Principles and teachings of Last Prophet (PBUH) and

	Union warning the Britain to stay away from internal matters.		Shariah principles of Quran
Arbitration	Meetings held with generals and top leaders to decide on military offensive towards South. North knew the information and capabilities of South, so did the South, but to lesser extent. Lincoln agreed on threatening using troops.	Deng's acceptance of hearing the demands in case the protests are called off. Protestors demanding reforms instead of dialogues. Elders and leaders of the party deciding to use military might.	Continuous attempts to make rebellions understand the word of Quran and Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.), even with battles going on against pagan tribes
Deterrence	Supplies by Lincoln administration to the federal troops in Fort Sumter, South Carolina. Lincoln using the General Scott's "envelope strategy" to make sea and other economic blockades of the world for South.	May 20 attempt of troops coming towards Beijing as a deterrence to the protestors. They were not allowed to open fires. Military forces warning the protestors to leave or face consequences.	Khalib bin Walid's military reputation made some tribes submit. Battle of Yamama a warning to other apostates too. Special unit guards established.
Military Operation	Offensive strike by Union in Manassas, Virginia, at the forces of South. North defeated, boosting South's confidence. Lincoln	June 4 and 5 when army got complete hold of Beijing, finally opened fire to the remaining protestors. End of	Organized military force, battles of Buzakha, Yamama and Dibba

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	called for fifty hundred thousand volunteers for fight, and soldiers. Start of bloodiest war.	Tiananmen square protests, complete silence in the city.	

Table adapted and compiled using peer-reviewed journal articles, historical encyclopedias, and official documents i.e. (Editors, 2009) (Poast, 2015) (Hassler & Jennifer, 2025) (He, 2017) (Radchenko, 2019) (Frontline, 2019) (Azhari & Damanhuri, 2024) (Wikipedia, 2025c) (Holmes, 2023)

States responses as per Principles of Crisis governance	American Civil War (1861–65)	Tiananmen Square Massacre (1989)	Early Islamic Caliphates (7th century)
Decision Making Procedure	Centralized authority while keeping democratic accountability, controversial choices,	Fully centralized decision making of Chinese Communist Party, regime survival necessary	Combined Consultation through shura, decentralization of decision making by engaging advisors and other relevant experts.
Leadership Styles	Central+Participative + situational style leadership, powers utilized while keeping state institutions in confidence.	Autocratic style + goal-oriented leadership, all party seniors under the directions of Deng Xiaoping prioritized regime survival	Central + Situational (flexible) leadership style + goal oriented, balance creation through collective input with goal to save the system of Islam
Communication and information dissemination	Lincoln's letter to Horace Greely and speeches (e.g., Gettysburg Address) framing war as a moral struggle for stopping secession and later emancipation.	Chinese government censored media coverage, labelled protesters as "counter-revolutionaries," reinforced the Party's authority.	Clear messaging through envoys about non negotiable nature of Islamic obligations of zakat and unity of Islamic ummah needs to be maintained. Theological position emphasized throughout

Negotiation VS Coercion	Lincoln's efforts to reconciliation and amnesty plans, offering peace to secessionists, later followed by deterrence tactics and finally used military offensive.	Zhao Ziyang talks with the protestors and Deng ready to hear demands if protests called off, later used deterrence through tanks and ultimately military offensive.	Started off through negotiations to make them understand, leaned towards situational responses, i.e. force used against hardliner apostates, coercive diplomacy against other rebels acted as a warning for some tribes to surrender.
Institutional Capacity and inter-coordination	Union's industrial strength, wartime bureaucracy, technological infrastructure, federal government, ensured superior coordination. Fiscal measures along with mass media mobilization.	Centralized coordination among state institutions, CCP and People's Liberation Army. Little autonomy was given to civilian institutions.	Command structure centralized around caliphate with Islamic principles as the main guidelines, with coordination with administration and military commanders.
Civil Rights and liberties	Writ of habeas corpus suspended, and was justified as temporary necessity. Both Northerners and Southerners controlled state's Narrative, mass media disseminated controlled war details and state's narrative.	Freedom of speech restricted, mass media and press were censored. Information controlled and the whole event considered "taboo"	Legitimacy grounded in religious authority. Rights were framed in Islamic law. Balance created between justice for Muslims and coercion against rebels.
Long Term Consequences	Union's victory, industrial revolution, rights of black people restored.	CCP's victory, Deng worked for the economic progress of Cina, making it one of the fastest	Victory of Hazrat Abubakar (r.a.) as leader, unification of Arab nation, compilation of

		growing economic of the 90's.	Quran, establishing unified army.

Table adapted and compiled using peer-reviewed journal articles, historical encyclopedias, and official documents i.e. (Boin & McConnell, 2010) (Boin et al., 2009) (Boin & Hart, 2003) ("Mitroff's Five Stages of Crisis Management," 2013) (Boin et al., 2021) (Editors, 2009) (Poast, 2015) (Hassler & Jennifer, 2025) (He, 2017) (Radchenko, 2019) (Frontline, 2019) (Malo, 2025) (Mitroff et al., 1987) (Azhari & Damanhuri, 2024) (Wikipedia, 2025c) (Holmes, 2023) (Khan, 2020)

ANALYSIS:

SAVE THE WRIT OF THE STATE:

Coming under international pressure and external influences in policy making is normal in a world that is interconnected globally for political, economic and geostrategic reasons. Federal government in the Union was afraid of Britain wanting to take its colonies again by supporting confederate in terms of arms and ammunitions. (Hassler & Jennifer, 2025) This could have jeopardized America's efforts for keeping the South in the Union. So, using military might to quell the rebellion was inevitable. China was on the way to progress as the foreign minister of Russia was on his way. (Radchenko, 2019) And the protests were hindering the peaceful talks and friendly image going go get created now. Same was the case with the apostates and other rebellious groups trying to take over the Islamic Ummah and spread rebellion at the crucial time of the demise of Prophet. The newly built Islamic ummah could have fallen apart, hadn't Hazrat Abubakar had taken a stern hand against pagan tribes and rebellious groups. Hence the military operation became necessary to save Islam. All three cases were more about saving the nation altogether, as per the ideological principles of state's narrative of existence.

IMPORTANCE OF CONCENTRATED LEADERSHIP:

Leadership in the case of Islamic case study was situational, but under the authority of Caliph and other senior companions, as they were the companions of the last prophet (PBUH) and were well aware that fighting against apostates is the only way to save Islam from being factionalized due to confusion. In American civil war, federal govt under Lincoln was doing everything to save the writ of the state and keeping the Union together as per the wishes of founding fathers, be it under the guise of liberalism. So does the Chinese Political party by being autocratic to finally save the revolutionary pathway after years of wars, famine and revolutions that brought destruction to a civilization having a history of successful dynasties and ideological prowess. Deng Xiaoping's leadership, even after retirement, proved wonders for modern China. Limited capitalism with more privatization, update in military through technology, restriction of unnecessary outside influences made China what it is today.

NARRATIVE AND INFORMATION CONTROL:

Bloodshed, controlling perceptions, narratives and quelling rebellious groups through military might is unjustified. For others, tribes refusing to pay zakat, especially those who were non-Muslims could be justified under the lens of liberalism and individual rights. But for an Islamic state, where Zakat is the third pillar of Islam, the machinery to run a state efficiently and the source of public welfare, it is totally against the law. Another truth was the non-Muslim Arabians wanting to take their lands that were conquered by the Muslims, showing the desire for regaining power in spite of the fact that they were living peacefully under Islamic rule, contrary to the Muslim living under their rule (Holmes, 2023)

Similar was the case with American Civil war, where Southerners demanding secession was justified under individual rights and liberalism, especially when their whole economy was dependent on slave labour. But what was more important was to side with morality, to become literate enough to understand that black colour cannot steal someone's right to be a human. Though Lincoln's letters proved the main purpose was to save the Union and restrain Britain's possible invasion, still the grand narrative of slave abolition was equally fruitful for a community to be finally considered as equal humans.

For Chinese Communist Party, especially the world powers built another narrative of China being autocratic, using Communist ideas and boycotted China at all possible levels. But China was finally on the right way of economic, social and political progress after years of irrational policies and killer movements. And the negotiation efforts at a crucial time when foreign ministers were making an appearance to rehabilitate relations with China proved unsuccessful. Hence the military offensive was the last straw to save the states identity. (He, 2017) (Frontline, 2019)

INTRASTATE COORDINATION:

The integration of state institutions at a time of civil unrest is better than state having no coordination and not looking out for the root causes of the conflicting situation. The Islamic case showed that apostates were trying to create a rebellion against Islam immediately after the demise of the Prophet (PBUH). The root cause was power games, thus required a coordinated effort to culminate the rebellion altogether.

In American case, the Union was already technologically, politically and militarily powerful and abundant in resources. Coordination was easier for them, specifically when the political ideology was on the same page as per morality and nationality.

For China, the Chinese Communist party was the only party allowed and the recent history of state's strict measures against scholars, teachers, and revolutionaries was a source of motivation for the state institutions to remain loyal to the central authority.

Chaos Breeds Opportunity:

The United States., despite condemning China's at the time of Tiananmen, had itself used force to preserve unity during its Civil War. Both America and China chose stability over chaos, ensuring their survival as global powers. America's Union victory gained federal strength, industrial growth

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increased, and more democratic reforms. The 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments advanced emancipation, while industrialization created economic dominance, enabled the U.S. to endure world wars and become a super power later on (Erath, 2015)

China was already on the pathway of modernization in agriculture, industry, science and technology and education right after demise of Mao Zedong and its policies. Deng Xiaoping was the reformer, not alone, but with his party members who supported his reforms as everyone was weary enough of decades of torture and bloodshed. But studies have shown that 1980's was already a period of more and more drive towards economic, and eventually, political stability. The Four Modernization and Boluan Fanzheng were the economic reforms that were ongoing already. More importance was given to education and foreign scholarships were increased, especially after Deng's visit to Southern part. Central hold on media outlets got stronger, but soon after protests, some eases were shown by promoting privatization in various sectors. Foreign investors and trade agreements were welcomed (Damodar, 2002)

With the fastest boom in economy, open trade policies and industrialization, even students and conservatives forgot about their importance to thoughts and ideas and all of them indulges in economic growth process of the country. Nationalism and modernized Confucius ideas were promoted at national and local level. Hardline communism was rejected as a failed approach. One-party system with its natural tendencies of authoritative rule and no challenge to their power, remained there. Government-public relations saw a healthy growth onwards.

After the Ridda Wars, the Rashidun Caliphate unified Arabia under Hazrat Abu Bakr's leadership, centralized authority and enabling rapid expansion into Byzantine and Sassanian territories. Key institutions like that of Bait-ul-Mal, a formal judiciary, and the compilation of the Quran as per the killings of huffaaz (people who learn Quran by heart) strengthened governance and faith. Military unity under leaders like Khalid ibn al-Walid secured lasting stability, and laid the foundation for the vast Islamic Empire's future growth and institutional progress (Wikipedia, 2025a) (Holmes, 2023)

Findings, Discussion and Conclusion:

Revolutionary uprisings were never witnessed in Pakistan. However, episodes of civil movements such as protests of 1969 (A. Khan et al., 2016) against General Ayub Khan and 2007-9 Lawyers movement against General Musharraf (Phelps, 2009) were some civilian protests as a result frustration against authoritarian regimes and failures of government to give basic rights. But the outcomes of these were another military regime after 1969, and the introduction of civilian government that was controlled militarily. All these non-violent uprisings were dealt with repressive techniques and military might.

Such movements in Pakistan produced more of a continuous strategic hybridity with military's dominance all through the way. A definite civic leadership could never be made possible and complete transformations or massive development could never be made possible. Thus, full scale uprisings that were capable of reshaping state policies or institutional powers never happened in Pakistan. Recent

example of peaceful protests by Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan is important as the killing of more than 100 protestors by paramilitary forces was the use of military might instead of listening to their stance or letting them complete their protests is completely disappointing (Chaudhry, 2025).

The researcher has made an effort to devise a framework to look into the crisis governance strategically. The reality lies in multiple forms of systems, democracy, autocracy, dictatorship, etc. In the case studies studied here, all three had different time and space, different global politics going on such as rising Islamu. Jurisprudence, power battles in the seventh century, rising human rights, Colonialism, industrial revolution in 1860s; and Cold war, communism vs capitalism and rising neoliberalism in the late twentieth century. One thing that can be the commonest one is "Real Politik" and the use of Political Realism, to save the state from becoming a proxy, a colony or completely disregarded. In words of Henry C. Emery (1915):

"*political realist is not one who necessarily stands for sordid aims but recognizes that the statesman must do what he can, not what he would, in order to secure as nearly as possible the concrete results to meet the needs of his particular state; and secondly, that in the choice of the objects to be attained there are inevitably rival claims which cannot in any simple way be determined from the point of view of relative spiritual value*".

States under the influence of circular debt and international aids are often forced to take crucial decisions of state's wellbeing under the influence of donor states. (Cherkaoui, 2022) Their continuous dependence limits their own sovereign identity and the conditionalities imposed by the donor countries are usually aligned with the state policies, one that were supposed to ease the local lives are catering the strategic interests of the power states. This creates power asymmetry, reduces the political autonomy and adoption of political and economic reforms unsuitable for the local infrastructure. This creates a hurdle in implementing policies that local natives need the most, hindering the sustainable development of that state.

In all our case studies, political realism was used as a lens to take stern force against conflicting voices, even when most of them were state's own people. Still all the peaceful stages to resolution were adopted, given that basic human rights would be the same for all eras and whatever the global politics are on.

Imagining what could have happened if Rashidun Caliphate, Union in America and Chinese Communist Party had lost?

If the Confederates had been victorious, the U.S. would have divided into multiple independent states with independent, fragmented economies. Prolonged slavery plus and delayed emancipation would have been there. Industrialization would not have gone massive, weakening America's global role, especially in the WWI. Divided states could have fallen under Britain's influence, with her or France exploiting the North and the South for economic and imperial gains (Girard, 2017) (Allabouthistoryteam, 2017)

After Mao Zedong's destructive Great Famine and Cultural Revolution, China in the 1970s sought recovery only under Deng Xiaoping's leadership. Had the 1989 Tiananmen protests remained

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successful, China could have dived deep into chaos like Russia post-1917, Warlordism could have revived and foreign interference could have started by the U.S. or USSR (Llewellyn & Kucha, 2023) Deng avoided risking modernization and was credited for China's later global rise from prioritizing stability, economic and political reforms plus learning from historical failures (Wong, 2017)

If the Caliphate had lost the Ridda Wars, Arabian Peninsula would have dismembered into independent tribes, Islamic expansion and unified empire have been halted. Islamic authority would have weakened, possibly delaying the Quran's compilation. Without central leadership, Islam's spread, Arab cultural dominance, and economic centralization would hardly have happened (Parker, 2022) (Editors, 2025)

Conclusion and lessons derived:

All these recommendations and lessons are not a defined blueprint for responding to modern times civil uprisings. But they for sure are practical, ethical and procedural, the principles to be adopted to minimize harm as much as possible. These can be adapted and adopted to prove state's legitimacy and seek mediation for what is right. This study has provided a blue print to look into crisis governance and reform it as and when necessary.

- Leadership needs to be decisive and majorly centralized even after consultation, no matter how tricky, sensitive, confusing and impulsive the situation is.
- Civilians of one's own state must be treated like one. Therefore, all the possibilities of negotiations and mediation must not be let go of the hand.
- Coordination among the state institutions must be quick and feasible even in normal routine so that the crisis situation can be acted upon without delaying.
- Efforts must be made to use as much lesser force, even if necessary. There can be other forma of temporary punishments such as arresting, but killing one's own public is unjustified unless there is any unavoidable circumstance.
- The root cause of uprising, rebellion or conflict must be found out and must be worked out instead of repressing the crisis for time being or taking strict measures in future to restraint public to speak out instead of listening to their negative feedback and converting it into something positive.
- For Pakistan, lesson from Islam and Islamic history carries major Importance as Islam is the state religion. Episodes of intrastate violence occurred multiple times in early Islamic history, just like the one discussed in the above-mentioned case study. The comparison shows how Muslim treated Muslims and gave them every chance to understand the core Islamic principles while the force used was taken as deterrent for the Muslim tribes. There are some other events, such as the Battle of Camel (656 CE), where the sources mentioned Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib (R.A.) tried till the end to restrain fight with their own people. He kept on avoiding attacks on the non-combatants, and tried for negotiation and arbitration till the end of the Battle. (Wikipedia, 2025b) This is as per Sunnah, i.e. the teachings and actions if Prophet to protect civilians and avoid transgression.

- This can be another lesson for Pakistani's. warfare should be the last option among Muslims fighting among each other.
- Each and every dispute should be resolved through consultation, negotiation.
- Rulers are made to be the protectors of public life, property and welfare on this earth. They must keep this duty in their minds before taking any action, especially when the opponent is one's own people.

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