Muhammad Ashraf Nadeem Baloch* Dr. Ghulam Mustafa**Dr. Allauddin Kakar*** Sher Ali Kakar***

Balochistan and Fifth Generation Warfare: Role of External Powers

Abstract

This research paper analysis challenges of fifth generation warfare to Balochistan. Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan, making about 45% of its territory. It is an important geo-strategic and geo-economic location. The world powers have been meddling in Balochistan since it became part of Pakistan in 1947. The province has witnessed externally-abetted insurgencies followed by suicide attacks, bomb blasts and insecurity throughout its history. At present, Balochistan is at war, waged by foreign hostile forces. The province is being subjected to fifth generation warfare massively. The adversaries of Pakistan have been trying to generate chaos and lawlessness in the province in order to gain their political objectives. Pursuing their nefarious designs, the enemies are behind conspiracies against the province, targeting it with tools of fifth generation warfare. The enemies of our country are sponsoring insurgencies, abetting terrorism, sabotaging development projects, and publishing misleading and fake media reports to influence the minds of local communities and incite them against its own state and its institutions. This research paper explores challenges of fifth generation warfare to Balochistan. These challenges include foreign involvement, terrorism, externally-abetted insurgent groups, and propaganda campaigns launched by hostile forces. Data for this study has been collected through both primary and secondary sources.

Key Words: Balochistan, Fifth Generation Warfare, Foreign Involvement, Gwadar

- *M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Political Science & International Relations, Government College University Faisalabad. ashrafnadeembaloch@gmail.com
- ** Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & International Relations Government College University Faisalabad. ghulammustafa@gcuf.edu.pk
- *** Assistant Professor, Command and Staff Collage Quetta.
- **** M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Political Science, University of Balochistan Quetta.

Introduction

Balochistan is one of the four provinces of Pakistan. It is the largest province of the country in terms of area. Balochistan became part of Pakistan in 1947. It was formed as a province in its present form in 1970, after abolishing One Unit. The geo-strategic location of Balochistan makes it one of the most important locations in the world. In the context of geo-economics, it also holds significance as the province is blessed with tremendous reserves of oil and gas. Moreover, other minerals such as coal, copper, chromite etc. are found. The initiation of development project of Gwadar port has enhanced its importance furthermore. Gwadar is considered a nodal city of the New Silk Road as it links two landlocked CARs to China.

Due to its geo-strategic and geo-economic importance, the world powers have always meddled in the province. Foreign involvement has led to insurgencies followed by suicide attacks, bomb blasts and attacks on security forces in the province. At present, Balochistan is being subjected to fifth generation warfare massively. The adversaries of Pakistan are trying to destabilize the province, using tools and tactics of fifth generation war against it. The enemies of our country are sponsoring insurgencies, abetting terrorism, sabotaging development projects, and publishing misleading and fake media reports to influence the minds of local communities and incite them against its own state and its institutions. According to Amb. (r) Munir Akram, "the hybrid war against Pakistan is focused on Baluchistan, the former FATA region, Gilgit-Baltistan and the CPEC" (Akram, 2018). This research paper explores Challenges of fifth generation warfare to Balochistan which include foreign

involvement, externally-abetted insurgencies, terrorism, propaganda war against province, and media campaigns.

Research Methodology

The study explores "Balochistan and Fifth Generation Warfare: Role of External Powers". In this study, the researchers focus on media, economy, cultural war and sectarianism which are being used as tools of fifth generation warfare against Pakistan specially in Balochistan. Data for this study has been collected using both primary and secondary sources. Different data collection tools have been used in conducting this research. Using primary sources, the researcher has conducted interviews with media persons and security official to get relevant and necessary data for this research. Using secondary sources, the researcher used books, scholarly articles, research journals, official reports and newspapers to gather relevant data for this research.

Foreign Involvement in Balochistan

Global players have been meddling in the province since it became part of Pakistan in 1947. Balochistan has witnessed insurgences followed by suicide attacks, bomb blasts and attacks on infrastructure and security personnel. The enemies of our country are sponsoring insurgencies, abetting terrorism, sabotaging development projects, and publishing misleading and fake media reports to influence the minds of local communities and incite them against its own state and its institutions. Balochistan has been witnessing insurgencies since it became part of Pakistan in 1947. Foreign forces has been meddling in the province for long. Russia, US, India, Israel, UK, Afghanistan and Iran have been part of conspiracies against the province (Khan, Sana, & Kiran, 2012). They have been trying to incite the locals against its own state and its institutions, sponsoring insurgencies, and promoting propaganda.

Prof. Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezai, son Sardar Baz Mohammad Khan Jogezai—who was one of the close companions of Quid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and played crucial role in making Balochistan part of Pakistan explains foreign involvement in these words: It has become a battle ground between big powers, thus adversely effecting socio-economic development of an already very poor province. This poverty and sparse population is primarily due to climate and extreme lack of water. There are no rivers in Balochistan and the global warming has adversely affected Pakistan, especially Balochistan. Rather than winter rains, as the area is out of monsoon rains of the summers, a drought has now become the norm during the winters which rages for a few years, and then repeats itself. The poverty due to rigors of climate is easily dumped on the government, any government to foment militancy against the federal rule. The cruel climate of Balochistan facilities enemies of Pakistan to foment insurgency in Balochistan (Jogezai, 2021).

The militancy of Balochistan has different dynamics with tribal and sub nationalist connotations. The foreign players are generating instability in the province due to its resource potential and geostrategic significance along future trade route. Some European states are pretending that the BLA and other militant groups from Balochistan are 'political opposition group', but the country that is more engaged in these activities is India (Bugti, Qazi, & Lijian, 2018). Kulbushan Jadhav, Hybrid war operator working with Indian intelligence agency-RAW, an analogue of the CIA and Mossad), admitted after his capture last year that he was fomenting terrorist attacks in this strategic region, thereby proving that the Indo-American Hybrid War on CPEC isn't just a "conspiracy theory" but can nowadays be regarded as a conspiracy fact.

Prof. Dr. Amir Mohammad Jogezai explains in these words: Balochistan was selected by KGB along with Seistan-Balochistan of Iran to capitalize on the small number of Baloch living in these southern areas in mid 60s to start an insurgency for breaking/weakening American containment of USSR. In Turkey, the Kurds were supported to start an insurgency. This was aimed at breaking up/weakening CENTO. The disgruntled Baloch/Brahui political leaders from southern Balochistan and Mari sardar were collected by KGB in 1970 in London to hammer out a Greater Balochistan plan. It was to comprise parts of Seistan-Balochistan of Iran and general areas of Mastung-Kharan southward. However, in Pakistan's elections after breaking up of One Unit in 1970, these Baloch/Brahui sardars won the majority vote from a captive clan/sub-clan who even now cannot stand against a Sardar. The regime which came into power was dismissed by PM Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in January, 1973 due to gross mismanagement. That gave rise to a 2000 strong insurgency duly supported from Afghan by KGB. This insurgency was controlled by September, 1974. However, KGB took the Sardar and their

commanders to Moscow and trained them further. With the breakup of USSR, America found an emerging power Pakistan to be disobeying them and going nuclear (Jogezai, 2021).

In addition, china, an emerging threat to US global hegemony, has been a close ally of Pakistan. Besides, America's hegemony in Indo-Pacific region is also being threatened by China. America has made India an ally to counter China in Indo-Pacific. The Strategic aims and objectives of India and US now are the same. Both view Pakistan as a threat so far as China is concerned or Pakistan's nuclear capability is concerned. This time, post 9/11, the CIA used the same old horse of Baloch/Brahui militants to ride and started old insurgency again in both Iran and Pakistan. This time however, India, to punish Pakistan for allegedly supporting Kashmir freedom struggle, and to support US happily joined in to start managing the insurgency in Balochistan from Afghan CIA, M16 and Mossad all are helping in this dirty game. It is easier to foment an insurgency in Balochistan due to very sparse population, remote areas and a ragtag tribal Levy trying to control law and order. Police does not exist in almost 95% area of Balochistan. It gives great power to every Sardar who behaves like a mini monarch.US and India are capitalizing on this very weak writ of Pakistan Government in Balochistan (Jogezai, 2021).

The US and Russian Involvement

The United States and Russia have always tried to promote their interest in Balochistan in order to exploit the region as tool to make Pakistan a destabilized country. Russia had supported the 'Pashtunistan movement' and "Greater Balochistan". When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, it was believed that it would also try to take possession of Balochistan's deep-sea-water port and the Baloch insurgents and their militant activities would be helpful to its attempt. After gaining control of Afghan territory, Russia tried hard to convince the Baloch to revolt against Pakistan's central government. The Soviet assured Baloch that they would be given autonomy over the province. The Soviet was pursuing the objective to maintain domination in Kabul as their base and to raise the issues of 'Pashtunistan' and 'Greater Balochistan' from land of Afghanistan, and make attempt to separate Balochistan from the state of Pakistan (Carson, 2018).

Moreover, Russia was in need of a corridor to the warm waters. Like the United States, Russia has also been in want to preserve its domination over all the energy resources of Central Asia. Currently, all the central Asian states are wholly dependent on Russia for energy export. Russia has same interest as that of the United States. The destabilized Balochistan is in the interest of Russia as it gives she hope to discourage Trans-Afghan pipeline or any other similar project.

The US involvement in Balochistan include its support for Baloch insurgents to counter Chinese influence in the province. The Central Investigation Agency (CIA) of US is believed to provide financial assistance to Baloch insurgent in Afghanistan. The incident of the capture of US spy Raymond Davis in a murder case of two Pakistani people in 2011 exposed the US covert operation in Balochistan. Additionally, the covert activities of CIA in Balochistan are apparent sign of US growing interest in this region (Khalid, 2018). Indeed, the formation of "Greater Balochistan" has been the foremost agenda of US, India and Israel nexus. Clearly, the United State propagate her concerns for maintaining peace in Pakistan, but at the same time, it is furthering its interest by supporting militancy in Balochistan. The US also has interest in growing their domination in Gwadar and other parts of Balochistan. Hence, sabotaging the China-Pakistan joint project of development of Gwadar port is one of the foremost interest in Balochistan. Thus, instability in Balochistan protects the US interests in the region because it is in her interest to delay the development projects between China and Pakistan.

The Indian Involvement

The Indian negative intensions has been exposed now. It is no more a secret that India is fueling insurgency in Balochistan. It has been supporting the insurgents groups in Balochistan. Baloch militant leaders have repeatedly admitted of receiving the Indian support. It has been revealed that the representative of Balochistan Liberation Organization (BLO) has been living in India since 2009. Pakistan has been accusing India for using its consulates in Kandahar and Jalalabad against Pakistan to fund, train and arm Baloch militants. A senior official of Pakistan a decade ago alleged that around 600 Baloch militant were receiving training from India's intelligence agency in Afghanistan to conduct terrorism in Balochistan (Swain, 2016).

For a long time, the Indian intelligence agency has been conducting covert operations inside through proxies and a network of terrorism that fall within Hybrid parameters (Kamran, 2018). In 2009, Pakistan handed over a dossier of RAW's involvement in terrorist activities particularly in Balochistan province (Dawn, 2009). After this, Pakistan regularly handed over such dossiers to United Nations. These dossiers have revealed how the India's intelligence agencies had been using Afghanistan's territory to give training and provide fund to terrorist in ex-FATA region and Balochistan. Moreover, India is directly involved in fueling insurgency in Balochistan through covert support to insurgents and their militant organizations (Kamran, 2018). Most of the ethnic and sectarian disturbances and their funding are often traced back to India.

In a video confession, the Indian spy agency agent Kulbushan Jadhav, had admitted: "My purpose was to hold meetings with the Baloch insurgents and carry out activities with their collaboration. These activities have been of criminal nature, leading to the killing of or maiming of Pakistani citizens" (Dawn, 2016). He clearly narrated that the Indian spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) was involved in a separatist movement in Pakistan. "I realize during this process that RAW is involved in activities related to the Baloch liberation movement within Pakistan and the region around it" (Dawn, 2016).

Indo-Iranian nexus and Interference in Balochistan

Balochistan has border with Iran. The province has always been a factor in relationships between Pakistan and Iran. Balochistan has been a factor which directly affects relationships between Iran and Pakistan. There are certain factors which has always led to confusions and doubts and has made the province an effecting factor in Pak-Iranian relationships. The political aspect of Indo-Iranian relationship and RAW's active in Pakistan is evident from their defense cooperation. Through Iran, India has got a direct route to plane activities and generate instability in Pakistan. Iran shares a common border with Pakistan connecting Baluchistan, the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area. Pakistan is facing security threats due to the insurgent groups movements along Iran-Pakistan border. Pakistan considers this as a result sponsored by India that aims to destabilize the province and deteriorate law and order situation. With the initiation of CPEC, the geostrategic location of Balochistan has gained significance as it is making Gwadar a trade hub and develop infrastructure and uplift economy of the province (Sohail, 2017).

The arrest of Kulbushan Jadav by Pakistani authorities in March 2016 confirmed the use of Iranian territory by Indian intelligence agencies against Pakistan. Kulbushan Yadav held an Iranian passport and was engaged in activities of spying and sabotage against Pakistan. He was in pursuit of Indian projected goals to destabilize Balochistan. The Indian Prime Minister has openly admitted such intentions. While addressing to the nation on the eve of India's Independence Day in 2016, he talked about the situation in Balochistan. The Baloch insurgent leaders support the stance of Indian PM over Balochistan, thus reinforcing the proof of Indian involvement in Balochistan. In March 2016, ISPR head, briefed on the capture of Indian spy agent Kulbushan Jadav, and stated that his goal was to sabotage CPEC, with Gwadar port the main target. He maintained that, "this is nothing short of state-sponsored terrorism... There can be no clearer evidence of Indian interference in Pakistan" (Dawn, 2016).

The Indo-Iranian nexus in Afghanistan and interference in Balochistan

Since the withdrawal of USSR from Afghanistan it has been a center of Indo-Iranian nexus and remains as a bone of contention between Pakistan and Iran. In order gain strategic gains and maximize their influence in Afghanistan, Indian has been supporting opposite groups. Afghanistan has enabled Indo-Iranian ties, creating challenging Pakistan's position in the region. India and Iran went close cooperation on the Afghan question. As Afghanistan is a landlocked country, it has to pass through either Iran or Pakistan. Pakistan perceives strong Indian influence in Afghanistan and deems its presence as potential threat to Pakistan. In 2011, Agreement on Strategic Partnership was signed between India and Afghanistan which enabled the two countries to have strong links against the interest of Pakistan. India is now playing active role in Afghanistan, providing Afghanistan large aid packages, infrastructural and capacity building porgrammes (Kiran, 2009).

Presently, Indian has formed firm ties with Afghanistan and Iran with aim to further its negative agenda and counter balance China. India mainly conducts terrorism in Balochistan through its consulates in Afghanistan along Pak-Afghan border, which acts as hubs of terrorism. These activities are supervised by

Indian intelligence officials posted along Pak-Afghan border. With massive efforts made by foreign Office and Inter Service Public Relation (ISPR), besides Pakistani media, the world is gradually realizing the Indian involvement in Balochistan.

RAW-NDS Nexus and Implications for Balochistan

Afghanistan relations with India and Pakistan has always witnessed ups and downs; where friendly ties with one of them comes with a trade-off with the other. Since 9 /11, India has established friendly ties with Afghanistan and enjoying its influence there. This period has shifted in Kabul's Indo-Pak policy, turning out to be very much pro-India. Enjoying its influence in Afghanistan, Indian is using the land of Afghanistan against Pakistan. India is pursuing its foreign policy agenda to destabilize Pakistan, and Afghanistan is being used to gain its projected goals (Lodhi, 2016).

On the contrary, the relationships between Pakistan and Afghanistan moved from being stable to total tense. This was because Afghanistan has been providing breeding grounds to terrorist and militants groups against Pakistan—particularly targeting Balochistan province. Violence and insurgency in Balochistan has its connections with the Afghan intelligence agency (NDS) that enjoy support from the Indian intelligence agency (RAW). The NDS-RAW nexus is engaged in covert operations in Balochistan, resulting and violence; terrorist attacks, bomb blast, attacks on security personnel (Anees, 2017).

In November 2018, terrorist attacked Chinese Consulate in Karachi. The investigation report on the incident revealed that BLA was behind the attack and it was planned in Afghanistan with the assistance of RAW (Dawn, 2019). In 2019, the suicide attack at Data Darbar Lahore was another incident where has connections with NDS and RAW (Nafees, 2019). Pakistan has repeatedly accused Afghanistan for being involved in supporting insurgencies in Balochistan and Ex-FATA region through its consulates in Kandahar and Jalalabad. Moreover, Pakistan has complained Afghanistan for providing safe heavens to TTP which has been involved in terrorist attacks against Pakistan, using the Afghan soil.

Brigadier (R) Abdul Basit Rana who has served in Balochistan for about ten years and closely monitored and handled security matters states about NDS-NEXUS and its implications for Balochistan: While Pakistan want good friendly relations with Afghanistan and India, NDS and Raw have joined hands to carry out subversive activities in Pakistan with the war against terrorism in Afghanistan is in the termination stage and peace negotiations for Afghanistan are in the conclusion stage. The NDS is assisting RAW in Balochistan to support Baloch separatist groups. The Indian agency RAW is also launching Sleeper cell with the help of NDS. Member of the cell are recruited from Afghanistan mainly belonging to militant groups, Baloch separatists. All the funding is done by RAW. Moreover, NDS operations are also discovered planning to target high value personalities in Balochistan (Rana, 2021).

Propaganda war against Balochistan

In the era of hybrid warfare, media campaigns against Pakistan are at full swing. The media campaigns are trying to portray that Balochistan has been kept deprived and undeveloped. In fact, foreign involvements in the province have badly affected the development progress. The foreign sponsored militant groups in the province have been one of the blocking factor in the development and stability of the province. The Indian state has been trying to portray Balochistan a deprived section of Pakistani society and trying to incite its people against its own state and its institutions. India is operating fake social media accounts and websites to show the world that Balochistan has been kept deprive by its own state, promoting false perception of the province.

A senior police officer of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Balochistan was interviewed by the author. While expressing his views about Balochistan and fifth generation warfare he stated: "It is fact that Balochistan has not been given its rights, but the enemies are exploiting fault lines. A propaganda is based on half-truth that Balochistan has been kept deprive and undeveloped and its resources are being exploited by Punjab—a province where poverty is widespread with other socio-economic disparities" (Balochistan, 2021).

India has launched a media campaign against Pakistan by using all means including television, newspaper, book, social media, films, dramas and radio. It has already initiated a multimedia website and app of its Balochi radio service. The radio stations broadcast its transmission in Balochi language, airing statements of

the senior officials of Indian Intelligence agency-RAW to incite Balochi community to stand up against Pakistan. India has also launched a TV news channel called "Zee Salam" with same purpose (Magbool, 2018).

The Indian government is encouraging is media to highlight fake reports about Balochistan. Hence, the Indian media is spreading fake reports about alleged "deep-rooted and festering political, economic and human rights problems of Balochistan", highlights militant attacks and bomb blasts in the province and runs articles that try to shed light on Pakistan's so-called Balochistan problem (Ahmed, 2020).

India is one of the largest user of social media in the world. There are about 206 million people in Indian which use social media compared to merely 40.4 million in Pakistan. These user share thousands of fake photos/videos about Balochistan and other parts of our country, systematically influence Pakistan's social media. Indian is using media to malign, destabilize and damage Pakistan's image in the eyes of the global community by creating and propagating false and fake news through an extensive network of 750 fake media outlets and 550 website operating in 162 countries (The News, 2020). In 2005, the Indian Intelligence agency established a fake front entity Srivastava Group (SG) with headquarters in New Delhi. This group has been managing this network of propaganda for the last fifteen years. The main purpose of the group is using fake reports and spread false news about Pakistan and them highlighted by ANI, a leading news agency of India.

Moreover, an extensive network of NGOs and think tanks was exposed in 2019 that was assisting over 200 fake news outlets operated by an Indian network to influence the European Union and the United Nations with content against Pakistan. In November 2019, a European non-governmental group exposed a network of 265 fake news operated by India. The report revealed that various obscure groups had been coordinating demonstrations and social media campaigns against Pakistan every year during UN Human Rights Council sessions (Machado, Alaphilippe, & Adamczyk, 2020).

CPEC and challenges of Hybrid warfare

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is multi-billion-dollar project initiated by China in. The mega projects comprise of modern transportation networks, energy projects, and special economic zones. CPEC is expected to boost economic activities in the province, leading to stability and prosperity. CPEC has created optimism among the local population. The development of Gwadar port, Special Economic Zones and road network will put the province on road to economic development and prosperity.

Since its initiation, the mega project has been subjected to propaganda and conspiracies by Indian, US and the western world. There are engaged in propaganda war against the development project, trying to manipulate and sabotage it (Hassan, 2019). The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is a flagship project of BRI is expected to uplift Pakistan's economy. India is trying to sabotage the mega project, spreading fake reports against it targeting it with militant's attacks. There negative intensions are exposed whether India do it's covertly or overtly against Pakistan. Moreover, it is not happy with Chinese huge investment under CPEC. India has been trying to sabotage CPEC, targeting it through its sponsored militants group (Kamran, 2018). The Gwadar Pearl Continental hotel attack was claimed by BLA in a bid to sabotage the mega project. The Indian intelligence agency was also behind the attack on Chinese Consulate in Karachi. Moreover, it was also responsible for kidnaping and killing of Chinese engineers in Balochistan.

Brigadier (R) Abdul Basit Rana: "India is engaged in massive campaign of 5GW to obstruct Pakistan's road to prosperity mainly through targeting China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Balochistan. India along with non-state actors have targeted Balochistan (Rana, 2021)" (Indian through social media has launched misinformation campaign against Balochistan and CPEC. But Pakistan is countering this through transparency and pulling out credible information. India has continued to support ultra-religious terrorist based in Afghanistan, who are against Pakistani government. India provide these terrorists funds to conduct terrorism in Balochistan. RAW and Indian armed forces have established bases in Pakistan's neighboring countries and are engaged in making conspiracies against Pakistan (Hanif, 2018). The arrest of Kulbushan Yadav is one of the major examples of Indian involvement in Balochistan. In a video confession, he also revealed that India was sponsoring and orchestrating terrorism in Balochistan to sabotage China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Conclusion

The study examined challenges of fifth generation warfare to Balochistan. Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area. It is blessed with huge potential of natural resource. One of the world's largest deep sea water port is located in Balochistan, enhancing its geo-strategic importance furthermore. The province is of great importance for the world powers and they have waged fifth generation warfare against it to destabilize it. India is a natural enemy of Pakistan and has never missed an opportunity to exploit the internal dynamics of the province. India has been involved in creating instability in Balochistan since long. It has waged fifth generation warfare against Pakistan, targeting its geo-strategically important area-Balochistan. Militants groups are engaged in terrorist activities in the province, supported and funded by the India's Intelligence Agency—Raw. Balochistan is the target of fifth generation warfare waged against hostile forces. The capture of Indian Intelligence agency official—Kulbushan yadav, has confirmed the Indian involvement in Balochistan. Indian is exacerbating the security dynamics of the province by using tools of fifth generation warfare against it. Waging fifth generation warfare against Pakistan, India is using electronic media, print media, and social media to damage Pakistan's image at global level. Pursuing its political objective to separate Balochistan from Pakistan, the Indian media is highlighting misleading and fake reports about Balochistan.

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