

***Pakistan's Enduring Challenges.* Fair, C. Christine., and
Watson, Sarah J., eds. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015.**

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Pakistan Enduring Challenges, edited by C. Christine Fair and Sarah J. Watson, is an attempt by the foreign researchers to highlight the problems of the country in which it is currently trapped in and how the state is trying to fight with the challenges posed to its security. The book is a compilation of different articles that surveys the political and socio-economic landscape of Pakistan. The authors have accurately portrayed the tensions, internal and external threats, which are the major hurdle in the peaceful existence of Pakistan. The book also considered positive social developments that have taken place during the past few years.

First part of the book deals with the security challenges in Pakistan. In chapter one, Stephen Tankel discusses that in Pakistan the line drawn between pro-state and anti-state militants is so complicated that sometimes it becomes very difficult to manage pro-state entities. In addition to this, the diversity of these militant groups is the main factor that is not uniting them. Owing to their ideological differences, these militant groups have not managed to gain power in political domains. In the second chapter of the book, Joshua White highlights the unity among various Sunni groups and ways how they are uniting to shape post-2014 security situation in Pakistan. He also highlighted the evolution of some Sunni factions and an ideological divide within the Sunni factions, which may cause a situation of Jihad within the Pakistan.

In the third chapter, Watson and Fair draws attention towards the US drones strikes in the tribal areas of Pakistan. The authors deny the fact that drone strikes actually fuel terrorism in Pakistan. They are of the view that it is the only realistic method of targeting the militants inside Pakistan, who are beyond reach of Pakistani security forces. It is also mentioned in the chapter that drone strikes in Pakistan are conducted with the consent of Pakistan's political and military establishment and the reports of high civilian casualties are dubious.

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In chapter four, Christopher Clary, explains four types of threat to the command and control system of Pakistan's nuclear programme. These are: Pakistan's tilt towards militancy; threats from insider nuclear experts or army officials; the external militants from the region and the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan. Although Pakistan has taken significant steps to secure its nuclear programme, the risk is still there, no matter how small it is.

Part two of the book focuses on Pakistan's domestic politics and political economy. In chapter five, Fair shows that the balance of power between civil and military leadership in Pakistan has been shifting. The peaceful transition of the government in 2013, shows that the change is occurring but this does not imply that Pakistan's democracy is strong enough to tackle the challenges it is facing. In chapter six, Huma Yusuf explores how social media is impacting the lives of the people of Pakistan and contributing to shaping their opinions. Although a small number of people have access to social media tools, yet, but this will eventually transform the opinion of Pakistani people towards traditional politics. Chapter seven covers the economic challenges of the Pakistan. The author, Feisal Khan highlighted the two main problems that have stopped Pakistan's growth which are energy shortage and inefficient tax collection system of Pakistan. Khan analyses the situation ranging from circular debt to overpriced power generation in Pakistan. He concluded that Pakistan's economic outlook is gloomy and getting gloomier.

In the third part of the book, the authors attempt to analyse Pakistan's domestic affairs to understand its foreign policy towards the region and the world at large. Paul Staniland, in chapter eight, argues that the drawdown from Afghanistan is a strategic breathing space for the US. This drawdown will reduce the US dependence on Pakistan in the region. As a result, the US tilt towards India in the region will not be a surprise for the world. In chapter nine, Karl Kaltenthalr and Will Miller analyse the attitudes of general public of Pakistan towards the US. They say that there are two concerns in Pakistani society, one is more driven by the religious factors and the second one is about the sovereignty of Pakistan. Aparna Pande, in chapter 10, argues that besides the American aid to Pakistan, Pakistan has taken sides on the basis of ideology and strategic benefit. China and Saudi Arabia are examples of this relationship.

In the final part and chapter 11 of the book, Ross and Vassefi argued that how the strained relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan will affect the US policies towards the region. The authors accepted the fact that Pakistan having Pashtun majority areas have strategic benefit over Afghanistan.

All the chapters cover the basic problems of Pakistan with an in-depth analysis, facts and strategic constructs. In the book, an attempt has been made to highlight numerous internal security threats to Pakistan and growing religious extremism within the state. The book also highlights the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, Iraq and drone strikes by the US in Pakistan. All these issues are covered with empirical evidences by the authors. The book is a must read for strategists, political leaders, academicians, policy makers and national security experts. The book provides an insight into the problems of Pakistan from a Western perspective.