

Contemporary Approach to Military Studies in Pakistan

The manuscript has not been previously published elsewhere and is not being considered by any other journal. The authors read and approved the final version of the respective manuscript.

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Note: The authors have no conflict of interest to declare

Abstract

Military studies in Pakistan encompass a multidisciplinary examination of the country's armed forces, security policies, and socio-political implications. The Pakistan military, historically a pivotal institution, has played a significant role in shaping national identity, governance, and foreign relations. Research in this field analyzes the dynamics of civil-military relations, military strategy, and the impact of regional security threats, particularly concerning India and Afghanistan. Additionally, the study of military history, including key conflicts and peacekeeping missions, offers insights into the evolution of

Pakistan's defense policies. The influence of military institutions on economic development and political stability is also a critical area of exploration. Overall, military studies in Pakistan provide a comprehensive framework for assessing the role of armed forces in contemporary society and their influence on domestic and international affairs.

Keywords: security policies, socio-political implication of national identity, civil-relations, international relations.

Introduction

Military studies in Pakistan represent a critical interdisciplinary field that examines the multifaceted role of the armed forces in shaping the nation's political, social, and economic landscapes (Cohen, 2004). Given Pakistan's unique historical context, where military influence permeates various aspects of governance, these studies provide valuable insights into the complexities of civil-military relations, security policies, and the impact of military decisions on domestic and international affairs (Shah, 2014).

Historically, the Pakistan military has been a central institution, often stepping into the political arena through coups and interventions. The country's founding in 1947, amidst the tumult of partition, laid the groundwork for a military that would play an outsized role in national identity and state-building (Jalal, 1990). The military's involvement in politics became particularly pronounced during periods of instability, such as the martial laws imposed by Generals Ayub Khan, Zia-Ul-Haq, and Pervez Musharraf. Each of these leaders sought to maintain control and redefine the narrative of governance through the lens of security and military strength (Jalal, 1990).

Research in military studies in Pakistan explores the dynamics of civil-military relations, which have often been characterized by tension and negotiation. The military's political ascendance has resulted in a complex interplay between military and civilian institutions, impacting the overall governance framework. Scholars analyze how military leaders navigate political challenges, engage with civilian governments, and influence policymaking processes, particularly in national security and foreign policy (Anatol, 2012).

Another critical focus area is the development of security policies, especially in the context of regional threats. Pakistan's geopolitical positioning, with ongoing

tensions with India and the volatile situation in Afghanistan, necessitates a robust military posture. The military's strategic doctrines, counterterrorism strategies, and border management policies are essential topics within this field. Researchers examine how these strategies evolve in response to changing regional dynamics and internal security challenges, such as terrorism and insurgency (Fair, 2014).

Military history is also a significant component of this field, offering insights into past conflicts and peacekeeping missions. Studies of major wars, including the Indo-Pak wars and Pakistan's involvement in United Nations peacekeeping operations, provide context for understanding the military's operational capabilities and strategic objectives. These historical analyses help illuminate the lessons learned and the implications for future military engagements (Ganguly, 2002).

The socioeconomic dimensions of military influence in Pakistan cannot be overlooked. The military has historically played a role in economic development, often through control of key industries and infrastructure projects. Scholars investigate how military enterprises and defense expenditures impact the country's economy and explore the relationship between military power and national development (Paul, 2014). Military studies in Pakistan employ various approaches, including qualitative case studies, quantitative analyses, and historical research. This multidisciplinary framework enables a nuanced understanding of the military's role in society and its governance implications (Chaudhry, 2023).

Military studies in Pakistan comprehensively explore the armed forces' significant influence on the country's political, social, and economic spheres. As Pakistan continues to navigate complex internal and external challenges, the insights gained from this field are essential for policymakers, scholars, and citizens, highlighting the ongoing relevance of military dynamics in shaping the nation's future (Junejo, 2024).

Research Justification

The justification for researching military studies in Pakistan lies in the military's critical role in shaping the country's political, social, and economic landscapes. Given Pakistan's historical context, marked by multiple military coups and ongoing civil-military tensions, understanding the dynamics of military influence is essential for comprehending contemporary governance and policymaking (Shafiqat, 2019).

The military's involvement in national security, particularly regarding regional threats from India and the complex situation in Afghanistan, underscores the importance of analyzing defense strategies and security policies. Additionally, the military's economic role, through ownership of key industries and infrastructure projects, raises questions about the implications for national development and civilian governance (Hussain, 2021).

Furthermore, studying military history and its impact on societal norms and identity is crucial for understanding how past conflicts shape present realities (Lawrence, 2003). As Pakistan navigates challenges such as terrorism and political instability, military studies provide valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and citizens. Ultimately, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between military authority and democratic aspirations, offering a comprehensive framework for addressing ongoing issues in Pakistan's socio-political landscape.

Research Objectives

1. Analyzing Civil-Military Relations: This objective focuses on understanding the complex interactions between Pakistan's military and civilian government. It aims to examine how historical events, such as military coups and periods of martial law, have shaped current governance structures. By analyzing these dynamics, the research will highlight the implications for democracy, civil rights, and political stability in Pakistan.

2. Evaluating Counterterrorism Policies: This objective seeks to assess the effectiveness of the military's counterterrorism strategies in combating various extremist groups within Pakistan. The research will analyze specific military operations, their outcomes, and the societal impact of these efforts. This study will provide insights into the military's role in enhancing national security and addressing public concerns by evaluating successes and challenges.

3. Exploring the Military's Economic Role: This objective examines its involvement in Pakistan's economy, particularly through its enterprises and investments in various sectors. The research will assess how military businesses impact economic development, civilian industries, and public perceptions of military influence in the economic realm. Understanding this relationship will help identify potential conflicts of interest and areas for policy reform.

4. Investigating Regional Security Dynamics: This objective explores Pakistan's military posture in the context of regional security challenges, particularly concerning India and Afghanistan. The research will analyze military strategies, defense collaborations, and the implications of geopolitical tensions on Pakistan's defense policies. This study will comprehensively understand how regional dynamics influence military decision-making and national security.

5. Assessing Military Education and Training: This objective focuses on the role of military educational institutions in shaping the capabilities and strategic thinking of Pakistan's armed forces. The research will evaluate curricula, training programs, and international partnerships that enhance military effectiveness. By examining how these factors contribute to the professional development of military personnel, this study aims to highlight the importance of education in ensuring a modern and capable military force.

Research Methodology

This study employed a systematic review methodology, with research objectives established accordingly. A comprehensive literature review was conducted (Komba & Lwoga, 2020). Research findings were categorized based on their content (Hiver et al., 2021; Petticrew & Roberts, 2006), and classified information was incorporated into the study by organizing it into headings (Gan et al., 2021; Pawson et al., 2005). The evaluation of classified information and titles formed the basis of the study (Page, 2021; Rahi, 2017), ensuring the integrity of the research subject and its contents (Egger et al., 2022; Victor, 2008).

Literature Review

The military's role in Pakistan has been a prominent subject of academic inquiry, reflecting its profound influence on the country's political, economic, and social structures (Staniland, 2008).. This literature review synthesizes significant research findings and themes regarding military studies in Pakistan, focusing on civil-military relations, security strategies, economic involvement, military education, and regional security dynamics.

I. Civil-Military Relations

The foundation of military studies in Pakistan often centers on the intricate dynamics of civil-military relations (Gregory & Revill, 2008). Scholars like Rahim (2023) highlight the military's historical role in politics, noting how successive military coups, particularly those by Generals Ayub Khan, Zia-Ul-Haq, and Pervez Musharraf, have repeatedly undermined democratic governance. He further argues that these interventions have entrenched a culture of military supremacy in Pakistan's political landscape, which continues to affect civil governance

Haqqani (2005), in his seminal work "Pakistan: Between Mosque and Military," offers a critical perspective on how the military's involvement in governance is intertwined with religious narratives. He argues that the military has played a dual role as both a stabilizing force and an authoritarian power, utilizing religion to justify its interventions in civilian affairs. This duality complicates the relationship between the military and the civilian government, as it creates a narrative that positions the military as a guardian of national security and ideological integrity.

Further enriching this discourse is the suggestion that the military's influence is not purely repressive; it has also been a stabilizing factor in a nation plagued by political instability. Shah's (2014) analysis indicates that while the military can act as an obstacle to democratic development, it also provides a form of order often sought by a populace weary of political turmoil.

2. Security Strategies and Counterterrorism

The military's approach to security, particularly its counterterrorism strategies, has emerged as a crucial study area. Ucko and Egnell (2013) examine the efficacy of military-led operations against extremist groups, highlighting the complexities and challenges these operations face. While the military has achieved tactical victories, failing to address the underlying socio-political conditions that foster extremism limits long-term success. They further argue for a more nuanced approach that integrates military action with social and political reforms to create sustainable peace.

The military's strategic posture in the context of its adversarial relationship with India. Pakistan's military policies often prioritize a militaristic approach over diplomatic engagement, exacerbating regional tensions. This perspective underscores the need for a comprehensive security strategy beyond military

solutions and addresses underlying political grievances and historical animosities (Kapur, 2008).

Ahmad (2010) provides a detailed examination of Pakistan's military doctrine, emphasizing its focus on conventional warfare while managing asymmetric threats. Fair's (2014) research highlights the military's reliance on strategic depth and proxy warfare, particularly in India and Afghanistan. She contends that this approach, while historically significant, may hinder Pakistan's ability to effectively counter emerging security challenges, including terrorism and cyber threats.

3. Economic Involvement

The military's involvement in Pakistan's economy is another critical area of inquiry. Mirza et al. (2015) explore the extensive business interests of the military, which encompass various sectors, including construction, agriculture, and telecommunications. Mirza argues that military enterprises operate with significant advantages, leading to a dual economy where military interests often overshadow civilian businesses. This economic dominance raises concerns about the military's influence on civilian governance and policymaking. The implications of this military-civilian economic interdependence suggest that it hinders the development of a competitive market environment and reduces accountability in governance (Chawla, 2001).

4. Military Education and Training

Military education and training are essential for understanding the professional development of the armed forces. Staniland et al. (2018) investigate how institutions like the Pakistan Military Academy cultivate leadership and strategic thinking among military personnel. Staniland analysis indicates that emphasizing professionalism and training is crucial for preparing the military to respond to modern security challenges.

Faruqui (2019) examines the role of international collaborations in shaping military training programs in Pakistan. She argues that partnerships with foreign military institutions enhance Pakistan's military capabilities and raise questions about sovereignty and dependence. The interplay between domestic training initiatives and international influences is critical for understanding the modernization of the Pakistani military and its implications for national security.

5. Regional Security Dynamics

Understanding Pakistan's military in the context of regional security is vital for a comprehensive analysis. Ibrahim and Maley (2019) explore the military's strategies concerning its neighbors, particularly India and Afghanistan. She argues that historical grievances and territorial disputes significantly influence military doctrine and operational priorities. This research emphasizes the need for a nuanced understanding of how regional dynamics shape Pakistan's military strategies.

Shapiro and Fair (2010) further explore the military's focus on countering India, noting that this adversarial relationship shapes defense spending and military preparedness. Fair (2014) suggests that while this focus may provide a rationale for military funding and expansion, it may also detract from addressing internal security issues, such as terrorism and insurgency.

The literature on military studies in Pakistan reveals a multifaceted understanding of the military's role in society. From the complexities of civil-military relations to the challenges of counterterrorism and economic involvement, scholars have provided valuable insights into how military dynamics shape Pakistan's political and social fabric (Gregory, 2016). While the military is often viewed as a stabilizing force in political uncertainty, its extensive influence can undermine democratic institutions and economic reform (Hussain & Hussain, 1993).

Future research should continue to explore these dynamics, particularly in light of evolving regional security challenges and changing global political landscapes. Understanding the intricate relationships between Pakistan's military, government, and society is essential for developing effective policies that address the country's unique challenges while promoting democratic governance and sustainable development

Historical Background of Military Studies in Pakistan

The historical background of military studies in Pakistan is deeply intertwined with the country's geopolitical and security challenges since its inception in 1947. Upon gaining independence, Pakistan inherited military institutions from British India, which laid the foundation for formal military education and training. The Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) at Kakul, established in 1947, became the country's premier institution for officer training, modeled after the British Sandhurst military academy (Rahman, 2022).

Pakistan's early military engagements, particularly the 1948 and 1965 wars with India, underscored the importance of formal military education. These conflicts prompted the establishment of institutions such as the National Defence University (NDU), founded in 1970, aimed at higher strategic studies and war planning for senior military officers. The NDU has since become a key player in developing Pakistan's military doctrines, focusing on national security, defense policy, and strategic studies (Khan, 2021).

The 1971 war with India, which led to the secession of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), further highlighted the need for robust military training and strategic planning. In response, Pakistan expanded its military education system to include advanced courses in counterinsurgency, asymmetric warfare, and nuclear deterrence after it became a nuclear power in 1998 (Batabyal, 2020).

Military studies in Pakistan have also evolved in response to the rise of terrorism post-9/11, with institutions emphasizing counterterrorism strategies, counterinsurgency, and the role of modern technology in defense. These historical developments have shaped Pakistan's military studies, making them integral to its defense policies and strategies in a complex regional security environment (Nawaz, 2011).

Leading Military Studies in Pakistan

Military studies in Pakistan are led by prestigious institutions crucial in shaping the nation's defense policies, strategic thinking, and military leadership. These institutions provide advanced education and training to military personnel, focusing on various subjects, including conventional warfare, nuclear strategy, counterterrorism, and national security (Nawaz, 2004).

The National Defence University (NDU) in Islamabad is Pakistan's leading institution for higher military education. It serves as a hub for strategic studies, focusing on developing the analytical and leadership skills of senior military officers and civilian policymakers (Basit et al., 2013). The NDU offers programs in national security, defense management, war studies, and strategic planning. One notable example of its influence is the National Security and War Course, which prepares senior officers for high-level command positions by comprehensively understanding global strategic challenges and Pakistan's defense priorities (Faruqi, 2019).

The NDU's focus on national security has shaped key defense policies, particularly about India and Afghanistan. The Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul, established in 1947, is the country's premier institution for training junior officers. It is modeled after the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom and plays a foundational role in shaping the leadership qualities of Pakistan Army officers (Soherwordi, 2010).

The PMA combines rigorous academic coursework with military training, ensuring officers are well-prepared for combat and leadership roles. Many prominent military leaders in Pakistan, including former army chiefs like General Raheel Sharif, are graduates of the PMA. In addition to these institutions, specialized training centers such as the School of Infantry and Tactics and the Pakistan Air War College focus on specific military branches, offering advanced courses in infantry tactics, air warfare, and naval strategy (Nawaz, 2011).

These institutions play a vital role in ensuring that Pakistan's military remains capable and ready to respond to evolving security challenges. Through these leading institutions, military studies in Pakistan have developed into a comprehensive system that prepares officers for the battlefield and contributes to strategic planning and national security policymaking (Malik, 2018).

Theoretical Context of Military Studies in Pakistan

The theoretical context of military studies in Pakistan is grounded in several key areas that shape the nation's approach to defense and security. These theories encompass strategic, operational, and tactical dimensions, reflecting the country's unique geopolitical challenges and historical experiences.

One prominent theoretical framework is Realism, which underpins Pakistan's strategic outlook. Realism emphasizes the anarchic nature of the international system and the importance of power and security. This theory is evident in Pakistan's focus on maintaining a credible nuclear deterrent and its strategic depth to counterbalance India's military capabilities. The concept of strategic deterrence, driven by the need to deter potential aggression, is a cornerstone of Pakistan's defense policy, influenced by Realist thought.

Another critical theoretical context is Asymmetric Warfare, which has shaped Pakistan's military strategies in dealing with non-state actors and insurgencies. The concept, particularly relevant since the 1980s, involves leveraging unconventional tactics against a stronger adversary. For example, Pakistan's

involvement in the Afghan conflict during the Soviet invasion highlighted the use of asymmetric strategies, with support for Afghan Mujahideen. Similarly, contemporary counterinsurgency operations in tribal areas reflect asymmetric warfare principles, addressing the challenges of militant groups.

Counterterrorism Theory also plays a crucial role in shaping military studies in Pakistan. This theory focuses on understanding and combating terrorism, which has been a significant issue for Pakistan, especially after 9/11. The development of counterterrorism strategies and the establishment of specialized units like the Surgical Strike Corps and the Counter Terrorism Department illustrate the application of this theory. These theoretical frameworks, Realism, Asymmetric Warfare, and Counterterrorism Theory, provide a comprehensive context for military studies in Pakistan, guiding both strategic policy and operational approaches in addressing complex security challenges.

Challenges and Opportunities for Military Studies in Pakistan

Military studies in Pakistan face various challenges and opportunities that influence the development of its defense strategies and academic programs.

Challenges

- 1. Limited Access to Data:** Research and academic work often struggle due to restricted access to classified information and sensitive data. This limitation hampers comprehensive studies on critical areas such as nuclear strategy, operational tactics, and defense policy.
- 2. Interdisciplinary Integration:** There is often a gap between military and civilian institutions, limiting interdisciplinary research. The lack of collaboration between military academies and civilian universities restricts the flow of diverse perspectives and innovative ideas into military studies.
- 3. Evolving Security Threats:** The rapidly changing nature of security threats, including cyber warfare and hybrid threats, poses a challenge. Due to outdated curricula and training methodologies, military studies programs may lag in adequately addressing these modern threats.
- 4. Funding and Resources:** Many military educational institutions face constraints in funding and modern research facilities. This limitation affects their ability to incorporate advanced technologies and methodologies into their programs.

5. Geopolitical Sensitivities: The sensitive nature of military research and defense strategies often limits participation in international defense research collaborations, affecting exposure to global best practices and innovations.

Opportunities

1. Technological Integration: There is a significant opportunity to integrate emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and unmanned systems into military studies. This would enhance Pakistan's military's ability to tackle modern challenges effectively.

2. Strengthening Civil-Military Collaboration: Building stronger links between military academies and civilian institutions can foster interdisciplinary research and policy development, creating a more holistic approach to national security.

3. Expanding Research Areas: Focusing on newer areas like counterterrorism, asymmetric warfare, and strategic studies can address evolving threats and contribute to more effective defense strategies. For instance, integrating counterterrorism strategies into military education can enhance Pakistan's ability to deal with internal and external threats.

4. International Cooperation: Increasing participation in international defense research and joint exercises can provide valuable insights and foster collaboration with allied nations. It can help Pakistan stay abreast of global defense trends and best practices.

5. Modernizing Training Facilities: Upgrading military training centers with advanced simulators and technologies can provide practical experience in modern warfare scenarios, preparing officers for contemporary challenges.

By addressing these challenges and leveraging available opportunities, Pakistan can enhance its military studies programs, which will lead to improved defense capabilities and strategic planning.

Discussion

Military studies in Pakistan have played a crucial role in shaping the country's strategic and defense policies. Given Pakistan's unique geopolitical position

bordering India, Afghanistan, China, and Iran, military studies have been prioritized, especially in response to security threats and regional conflicts. The country's military history, including wars with India and involvement in the Afghan conflict, has further fueled the importance of defense education. Pakistan's premier institution for military studies is the National Defence University (NDU) in Islamabad, which provides a platform for the country's military leadership and civilian policymakers to explore strategic concepts and defense policies. It offers programs in war studies, international relations, and defense management, focusing on national security issues and the evolving nature of warfare.

The Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) and other military colleges also play a significant role in preparing officers for the armed forces, with rigorous training that blends academic learning with practical military strategies. Military studies in Pakistan are not limited to just conventional warfare; they also cover areas such as counterinsurgency, terrorism, cyber warfare, and nuclear strategy. Given Pakistan's status as a nuclear power, the study of nuclear deterrence and policy formulation is an essential aspect of military education.

These studies not only influence the operational strategies of the armed forces but also contribute to Pakistan's broader foreign policy. Through an emphasis on strategic autonomy and national security, military studies continue to impact Pakistan's defense posture in both regional and global contexts, making them a pivotal aspect of the country's educational and defense landscape.

Conclusion

Military studies in Pakistan hold significant importance due to the country's unique geopolitical position and security challenges. Situated at the crossroads of South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia, Pakistan faces a complex security environment, making military education vital for national defense and policy formulation. These studies focus on preparing military officers and defense strategists to handle various conventional and unconventional threats, including border conflicts, terrorism, counterinsurgency, and nuclear deterrence.

The National Defence University (NDU) in Islamabad is the premier institution for military studies in Pakistan, offering programs in areas such as war studies, strategic and defense studies, and international relations. The NDU is instrumental in fostering strategic thinking among senior military officials and

civilian leaders, providing a platform for collaboration on national security issues. The Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul is another vital institution that initially trains army officers, combining academic education with rigorous military training. Pakistan's military education also addresses modern security challenges, including cyber warfare, terrorism, and internal security operations. As a nuclear power, the study of nuclear strategy and deterrence remains a key component of military curricula, reflecting the importance of maintaining a credible nuclear posture in the region.

Military studies in Pakistan prepare officers for operational duties and contribute to shaping national defense policies. These programs emphasize strategic autonomy, regional stability, and the capacity to respond to emerging threats. Overall, military education is integral to maintaining Pakistan's defense capabilities, ensuring the military's readiness to meet both conventional and asymmetric challenges in a volatile security environment.

Recommendations

- 1. Incorporate Emerging Technologies:** Integrate studies on cyber warfare, artificial intelligence (AI), and unmanned systems (drones) to address future challenges in warfare. It will keep Pakistan's military capabilities aligned with global trends.
- 2. Strengthen Civil-Military Collaboration:** Encourage joint programs between military academies and civilian universities to foster interdisciplinary learning on national security, diplomacy, and defense policies.
- 3. Enhance Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency Training:** Expand specialized training programs focusing on modern-day counterterrorism and insurgency operations, vital for dealing with domestic and regional threats.
- 4. Focus on Nuclear Strategy:** Given Pakistan's nuclear status, the military curriculum should integrate a deeper emphasis on nuclear deterrence, non-proliferation, and strategic stability.
- 5. Develop Research Centers on Asymmetric Warfare:** Establish research institutions that study asymmetric and hybrid warfare, focusing on the growing importance of non-conventional military tactics and psychological warfare.

6. Promote International Defense Cooperation: Increase exchange programs and joint training exercises with international military institutions to learn from best practices and global defense strategies.

7. Introduce Cybersecurity Studies: Create dedicated cybersecurity and information warfare programs, which are essential for protecting national security in the digital age.

8. Focus on Strategic Geography: To improve military strategic understanding, Encourage a deeper focus on the geopolitical dynamics of South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

9. Modernize Training Facilities: Update military training centers with advanced simulators and technologies to provide practical experience in modern warfare scenarios.

10. Encourage Military Diplomacy: Offer courses on military diplomacy and soft power to prepare officers for international peacekeeping roles and enhance Pakistan's military presence in global diplomacy.

Research Limitations

Military studies in Pakistan face several research limitations that hinder their full potential. One significant challenge is the limited access to classified or sensitive data related to defense strategies, military operations, and nuclear policies, which restricts comprehensive academic research in these areas. Furthermore, interdisciplinary collaboration between civilian and military institutions remains limited, preventing broader knowledge exchange and diverse perspectives on national security issues.

Another constraint is the focus on traditional warfare, often overshadowing newer domains like cyber warfare, space defense, and artificial intelligence. Some institutions' lack of sufficient funding and modern research facilities further hampers cutting-edge research. Additionally, geopolitical sensitivities restrict participation in international military research programs, limiting exposure to global defense innovations. Finally, academic freedom within military studies is often restricted due to the hierarchical nature of military institutions, which can limit critical thinking and innovation in defense studies.

Research Implications

The research implications of military studies in Pakistan are significant for national security and regional stability. By advancing military education, Pakistan can develop a more adaptive and capable defense force, better equipped to face contemporary security threats such as terrorism, cyber warfare, and regional conflicts. Enhanced research in military studies can lead to improved strategic planning, helping to refine Pakistan's defense policies and doctrines, particularly in areas like nuclear deterrence and counterinsurgency.

Additionally, fostering interdisciplinary research between military and civilian institutions could bridge gaps in national security policy and promote a more integrated approach to defense, diplomacy, and development. Such collaboration would also enhance Pakistan's soft power through military diplomacy and international peacekeeping efforts. Expanding research into emerging technologies, like artificial intelligence and unmanned systems, can drive innovation in defense capabilities and help maintain regional strategic advantages. Overall, the implications of advancing military studies in Pakistan would strengthen national security and contribute to broader regional peace and stability.

Future Research Directions

Future research in military studies in Pakistan should focus on several critical areas to address evolving security challenges. One key direction is the integration of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), cyber warfare, and uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs) into defense strategies. It will enhance Pakistan's capability to confront modern warfare threats, including cyber-attacks and information warfare, and provide strategic advantages in conventional and asymmetric conflicts.

Another important area for future research is nuclear strategy and deterrence. Given Pakistan's status as a nuclear power, further exploration into nuclear command and control, second-strike capabilities, and strategic stability in South Asia is crucial. It would strengthen national defense policies and contribute to maintaining regional peace. Counterterrorism and counterinsurgency research should also be expanded, focusing on the evolving nature of non-state actors and terrorist networks. It includes studying radicalization, hybrid warfare, and the role of social media in terrorism. Research on military diplomacy and international peacekeeping could help improve Pakistan's role in global military cooperation,

fostering stronger ties with international allies and enhancing its contributions to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Finally, there is a need to develop interdisciplinary research that bridges military studies with political science, economics, and sociology, enabling a more holistic understanding of national security and defense policy. This approach will help shape a more dynamic, forward-looking military strategy.

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