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## THE BALOCH RESISTANCE IN PAKISTAN: SOME PLAUSIBLE IMPACTS AND EXPLANATIONS

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
<p>Nationalism, Balochistan, Insurgency, Natural Resources and Resistance Movement</p>	<p>Baloch resistance in Pakistan has been a political struggle and ideological movement which was meant to pressurize the successive governments of Pakistan to ensure the due rights of the inhabitants of the province. The issue of Balochistan is no doubt political in nature which could have been settled via political dialogues and negotiations, however, trust deficit and rigid attitudes from both sides have taken deep roots that never allowed them to be on a single page for larger interest of Balochistan. The paper investigates the fact that the persistence unjust policies and rigid attitudes of the successive federal governments towards Balochistan gave birth to sense of deprivation and sense of alienation among Baloch ethnic group. As a result, Baloch ethnic group has justified and linked their resistance with the matters of their ethnic and ideological survival in the country. The paper further finds that the resistance movement of Baloch is the result of the long-term unjust approaches of the successive federal governments of Pakistan. The paper aims to find out severe implications of the resistance on province-center -nexus on long-run.</p>
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### INTRODUCTION

Balochistan is one of the most important provinces of Pakistan since it has unique geostrategic location and an attractive geo-economic corridor. In addition, nature-blessed province falls at the juncture of the Middle East, Gulf, Central Asia and South Asia which are the most important regions of world in term of geo-strategic location, geo-political importance and geo-economic necessities (Ahmad, 2017). In fact, Balochistan does not only act as gateway to provide access to Afghanistan, China, Russia and Central Asian Republics to warm water, it is also marked as the bedsheet for the virgin of the natural resources and exclusive maritime belt (Iqbal, 2012). Most importantly, the land of Balochistan occupies 44% of the total land of Pakistan (Bibi, Ahmad, Tareen, Jabeen, Sultana, Zafar & Abidin, 2015). but, contrary fact that Balochistan is one of most

least developed provinces of Pakistan which does not only lack mainstream political politics and economic development, it has been deprived from basic health and educational facilities since its merger with Pakistan in 1948. It is believed that sense of deprivation created alienation among Baloch ethnic group within Pakistan that is basic and actual cause and plausible reason of Baloch resistance movement in Pakistan (Nawaz, Burke & Azam, 2011). There is no denying the fact that Baloch resistance movement in Pakistan is result of persistent unjust policies and inappropriate approaches of successive governments of Pakistan towards the least developed province.

This is what Balochistan has been hit by five phases of severe insurgency since its merger with Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 1948. These all five phases of armed movements were initially meant to pressurize the different governments of Pakistan to give up continuous biased policies vis-à-vis Balochistan and ensure due rights of Baloch people within constitutional framework of Pakistan. Apart from armed nationalist forces, there is another school of Baloch nationalist who have maintained that successive governments of Pakistan have exploited and taken away the respective natural resources of Balochistan without taking them into confidence. Sui Gas which was discovered in 1952 in Sui, Balochistan, however, it was directly pipelined to Punjab and Balochistan itself remained deprived from it since 1984 (Alok, 2008). It is interesting to note that Baloch resistance movement in Pakistan has been led by two different ideological groups with two different directions since 1948. No doubt, both groups have had similar goals and targets, but both have been playing game on different pitches. There is no doubt that both camps have intended to force the successive central governments to ensure the basic needs of Baloch people and give up policy of exploitation of natural resources of province, however, both groups have been witnessed in blaming one another for the worsening political situation of the Balochistan.

The different strategies and approaches of both groups have not only created political uncertainty in Balochistan, they have also created a political vacuum in Balochistan. One quarter of Baloch nationalist in Balochistan have been struggling for the settlement of the issues of Balochistan within the constitutional framework of Pakistan since they believe that the genuine issues of Balochistan are political in nature which can only be settled via political negotiations. However, on other hand, the other Baloch nationalist group who has had a harsh stance, strongly rejects the struggle of the former nationalist group and believe that Balochistan is independent entity which has been forcefully merged with Pakistan. Therefore, their struggle is purely meant to separate Balochistan from Pakistan (Alok, 2005). The conflict between both school of thoughts has neither settled issues of Balochistan, nor ended economic deprivation. Despite of political struggle of both the nationalist groups, it is to be noted that Balochistan has been neglected, deprived and denied from its due and fair share in national wealth of the country. It has been lacking educational and health facilities, proper political representation in National & Provincial Assemblies and due share in the natural resources of the province (Mohammed & Farooq, 2002).

Moreover, Baloch further believes that they have been marginalized and sidelined on their own homeland and have been denied in the due share from the Sui Gas, Reko diq, Gwadar Port and other provincial mega projects which are being dipped out on soil of Balochistan (Alok, 2006). As a result, Baloch people have initiated the resistance movement which was initially carried out within democratic and constitutional framework of Pakistan in order to force the successive

central governments of Pakistan to ensure due rights of Baloch people. However, continuous ignorance, persistent negligence and political engineering of successive central governments in Balochistan created a political vacuum and tense political environment that has been filled out by armed insurgents of Baloch ethnic group. Thus, Balochistan resistance movement continued from time to time between Baloch insurgents and the armed forces of Pakistan. The Baloch resistance in Pakistan via armed insurgency was firstly launched by Prince Agha Abdul Karim in 1948 against the decision of the Khan of Kalat in merging Balochistan with Pakistan (Rizwan, 2019). Consequently, the first armed movement emerged in 1948 which unfortunately sowed the seed of narrow nationalism and biased ethnic attitude in Balochistan whose impacts are felt today.

Till onwards, Balochistan has witnessed different phases of resistance movements that continued from period to period against the central governments of Pakistan. The resistance movement in Balochistan had gone weaker in many times in past, but it has never died. Certain evidences prove the fact that resistance movement of Balochistan has been sponsored and backed by some regional and extra-regional powers since Balochistan plays a pivotal role in world politics due to its geostrategic location, geo-political significance and geo-economic necessities of region. It does not only act as gateway for the countries of South Asian and Central Asian, it falls at the chokepoint of Strait of Hormuz and Persian Gulf where 40 % of the world oil passes (Mazhar et al., 2012). Therefore, Balochistan has been the hotbed of the power politics for the regional and international players. One cannot reject involvement and intervention of external powers in resistance movement of Balochistan. It seems that successive central governments have never taken issues of Balochistan so seriously which have ultimately created rift and mistrust between national figures of Balochistan and Pakistan. The paper suggests that resistance movement of the Balochistan that is political in nature, needs some serious political engagements and insurance of complete end of economic exploitation so that issues of Balochistan may not reach a point of no return.

### **Historical Background of Study**

Historically, the territory of Balochistan which is no doubt endowed with natural and mineral resources, has been home of territorial realignments, political engineering, social defragmentation, strong separatist movements, inter-tribal conflicts and power politics that have finally converted the nature-blessed land into a destabilized province. The very territory has also experienced human rights violation, indiscriminate bomb blasts, target killings of precious lives and violent waves of terrorism and extremism from time to time. The history reveals that the territory of Balochistan are controlled by Arabs, Sikhs, Mughal, Iranian, Persians, Afghans and Britishers, however, it is interesting to learn that none of any could succeed to maintain its control for a longer period of time due to the continuous and gallantry resistance of Baloch people in diverse situations (Hussain & Zakir, 2018). No doubt, the Baloch ethnic group remained scattered, disintegrated, political representation and lacked the proper as well as effective leadership, they continued to resist from time to time in order to rescue their respective territory from foreign dominance. In order to resist the foreign aggressions and run the political and social affairs by themselves, initially Baloch ethnic group formed tribal and Sardari systems in 12<sup>th</sup> century (Khan, 2013).

Later, Baloch people were politically organized and controlled under state of Khanate of Kalat in 1512 where Mr. Mir Bijar Khan Jatoi Mirwani became the first Khan of Kalat. In addition to this, during the reign of Prince Ahmed Khan who remained the 9<sup>th</sup> Khan of Kalat (1601-10),

(Bansal, 2010) more areas of Balochistan were integrated with Khanate of Kalat to expand the geo-political and administrative setup of Balochistan since Prince Ahmed Khan had proved to be the most effective and most powerful Baloch leader under the banner of Baloch nationalism. Despite of controlling Balochistan politically, geographically and economically, British Raj never attempted to reverse independence status of Khanate of Kalat since Britishers were well-learned about the retorts and resistance of Baloch ethnic group in region. Therefore, British Raj never disturbed independent status of Balochistan after its departure from Subcontinent in August, 1947 (Titus & Swidler, 2000). Right after the departure of British from Subcontinent, a series of negotiations were held between Khan of Kalat, Mr, Ahmad Yar Khan and Qaid-e-Azum, Muhammad Ali Jinnah to decide fate of Balochistan. After successful negotiations, geographical independence of Balochistan was merged with Pakistan on March 28th, 1948 (Ahmed et al., 2016).

On the other hand, Prince Agha Abdul Karim and Muhammad Rahim rejected the decision of Khan of Kalat and launched the first resistance movement against Pakistan in order to restore geographical and political independence of Balochistan (Khan et al., 2018). Prince Agha Abdul Karim, being unpopular figure in Balochistan, lacked public supports and organized manpower, remained failed in his mission. However, he sowed the seed of Baloch resistance movement in Pakistan for the first time. After the failure of the resistance movement of Prince Agha Abdul Karim, it was a golden opportunity for the then leaderships of Pakistan to address the political and economic reservations of Balochistan with political dialogue and end the grievances of Balochistan forever, but unfortunately, within no time, the resistance movement of Balochistan was underestimated and coercive measures were preferred to deal with resistance movement of Balochistan. Consequently, the soon after Balochistan witnessed another resistance movement which was more violent in nature. The 2nd Baloch resistance movement in Pakistan took place in 1958 over the introduction of One Unit System. Thus, Mr. Nawab Noroz Khan and his team resisted the One Unit System since they believed that the introduction of the One Unit System would reduce the political representations of small provinces in the national politics (Ahmed, 2013).

No doubt, the 2nd resistance movement of Balochistan was short-lived which ended in 1959; but it re-energized foundation of resistance movement of 1948s. The 3rd resistance movement which was linked with previous resistance movements of Balochistan, was started in 1963, continued until 1969 (Khan, 2013). It is generally believed that the 3rd resistance movement which was launched in 1963 by a bunch of Baloch nationalist figures, was due to the limitation of provincial autonomy in 1962 constitution of Pakistan. Mr. Sher Muhammad Bijrani Marri along with his supporters prolonged the resistance movement in Balochistan which did not only pressurize the federal government to ensure the due fundamental rights of Baloch people, it also resulted abolition of One Unit System in Pakistan in early 1970s which was considered the main bone of contention between Balochistan and Central government. Thus, Balochistan was accepted as a separate province of Pakistan in 1970 (Spooner, 2013). After the abolition of One Unit System, introduction of democratic government and formulation of new constitution in Pakistan in early 1970s, paved the way for the political and democratic representatives of the Balochistan to carry out their political activities and practices within constitutional framework of Pakistan.

Fortunately, entire political and tribal leadership of Balochistan including, Sardar Atta Ullah Khan Mengal, Khair Bakhsh Marri, Nawab Abker Khan Bughti and Ghous Bakhsh Bezinjo were

witnessed to be the part of national and democratic politics of Pakistan under the umbrella of National Awami Party (NAP) (Hanif, 2012). However, political unrest and instable political system of Pakistan washed out the political efforts in Balochistan. Thus, provincial government was dismissed. On the eve of dismissal of provincial government in 1973, Khair Bakhsh Marri launched 4th armed resistance movement under the banner of Balochistan People's Liberation Front (BPLF) (Khan, 2013). It needs to be learnt that 4th resistance Movement was the most severe in nature since it involved Marri and Mengal tribesmen in guerrilla warfare against the federal government for the first time. The fifth and most severe armed resistance movement in Balochistan took place in August, 2006 over murder of Nawab Akbar Khan Bughti, in Khulo, Balochistan (Gazdar, 2006). It is believed that Nawab Akbar Khan Bughti who had remained Chief Minister and Governor of Balochistan, resisted over the rape of Dr. Shazia Khalid at Sui Gas facility. He also had maintained a harsh stance over a fair share from the natural resources of Balochistan.

On the denial of his demand, he was alleged in attacking the arms forces in the tribal areas of Balochistan (Hashmi, 2015). As a reaction, the political conflict turned to be an armed conflict between the Retired General Pervaiz Musharraf and Nawab Akbar Khan Bughti which finally resulted the murder of Nawab Akbar Khan Bughti on August 26th, 2006. The murder of him opened a new chapter of resistance movement which engulfed entire Balochistan so quickly. Thus, the resistance movement was so severe that after the passage of one and half-decade, the resistance movement still continues in many parts of province. Therefore, they avoided to govern Balochistan directly and empowered Khan of Kalat to run the political and economic affairs of the Balochistan by themselves. In the aftermath of his murder, the Baloch resistance movement has been witnessed in moving towards insurgency and armed conflict that created political unrest, economic collapse and finally paved the way for the intervention of regional and the international actors in Balochistan. Unlike the past resistance movements, the ongoing resistance movement has been completely different in nature due to its intensity, transmission and length.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Since the succession of Balochistan with Pakistan in 1948, soil has witnessed political unrest, social defragmentation, foreign intervention, surgical operations, separatist movements and the extreme waves of the extremism and terrorism. Disappointingly, ever since province remained failed to produce any mature leadership and stabilized political parties that could get rid from tribal and Sardari setup, illiteracy, extremism and terrorism. Subhan and Kasi, (2018) proves fact that regional political parties seem failed in Balochistan to feel their presence felt strongly. He further maintains that political parties of province which are nationalist-based, have lost their popular support in Balochistan due to limited and vague manifesto. There is no denying the fact that due to unpopularity of local political parties in Balochistan, a political vacuum has been created that has been filled by national parties of Pakistan via local Sardars and tribesmen. It has to noted that the gradually and slowly, the Sardars and Nawabs of Balochistan are losing their supports from the common people of Balochistan. Alok Bansal, (2008) believes that as far as Baloch grievances are concerned, ethnicity intertwined with sense of political marginalization and the economic exploitation continues to be the potent force in evoking Baloch resistance in Pakistan.

He further believes that the grievances of Baloch people in the province remained unsettled due to weak Baloch political setup in Balochistan. Mirza, (2013) believes that the political and



socio-cultural spectrum of province is characterized by the Sardari and tribal setup, as a result, Balochistan failed to flourish well-organized and matured political parties in Balochistan. Mirza further narrates fact that due to poor governance, lack of government writ; the tribal system continues to be the practicable mechanism to run the provincial matters. One cannot deny the fact that until and unless the true representatives of Baloch political parties are allowed on the ground politics, the sense of deprivation and agitation among common Baloch would continue to create an environment of resistance in Balochistan. Meantime, Baloch resistance movement would get deeper and create more challenges for the political forces in the province. Hanif, (2012) finds it interesting that the armed resistance movement of Balochistan is the result of mishandling the political setup of Balochistan. He clears it with example that Baloch resistance movement took greater momentum during Zulfikar Ali Bhutto tenure as compared with reign of General Ayub Khan. He further believes that during Zulfikar Ali Bhutto period, the political leadership in Balochistan was disappointed as NAP was not allowed to carry out politics in Balochistan.

Furthermore, Ali, (2012) investigates the problems of Balochistan categorically. He believes that intractability of the problems of the political system in Balochistan has weakened the role of regional politics in the province. He further believes that the armed resistance politics in the province can be replaced with local politics if the people from grassroots and middle class play their parts in the national politics. No doubt, Baloch people have been deprived from their basic and fundamental rights, denied their due share in national wealth and kept away from national politics, they can still be settled via political dialogue. Allowing independent political culture in Balochistan would surely create environment of trust between province and center. Meantime, the Baloch resistance movement would get deeper and create more challenges for political forces in province. Bukhari (2015) believes that political setup of Balochistan which was influenced by Sardars and tribal leaders have caused political turmoil and socio-economic misery of the Baloch people in Balochistan. He, therefore, suggests that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan needs to ensure the political and the economic security of people in general in the province.

However, Siddiqi, (2012) believes in the fact the Baloch resistance movement started in 1948 which had gone through many phases of the ups and downs. However, it has never ended its intensity despite of lots of socio-political troubles and realignments in Balochistan. However, Hashmi, (2015) believes that Baloch resistance movement is due to the past mistake of central government which created political unrest and social disturbance in Balochistan. However, political unrest and instable political system of Pakistan washed out the political efforts in the Balochistan. Thus, provincial government was dismissed. The authors further investigate fact that allowing US to establish its military bases in Pasni, Gwadar, Dalbandin and Jacobabad further added the grievances of Baloch in Balochistan. There is no denying the fact that the key issue of Balochistan has been the unjust distribution of natural wealth among the federating units of Pakistan, however, neglecting the Baloch leadership in decision making process about the mega projects of Balochistan further added to the problems of Balochistan. Aslam, (2011) identifies fact that poor governance, unjust distribution of natural resources of Balochistan and the political marginalization have been the key causes for the resistance movement of the Baloch.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study is qualitative in nature where different facts, incidents, stories and case studies have been investigated. Moreover, experts of field, relevant professors, analysts and political figures of Balochistan were interviewed to find out actual cause and permanent solution of resistance movements in Balochistan. Primary and secondary data have been collected and assembled. Authors have used thematic means and triangulation methods to analyze primary and secondary data in order to validate and authenticate the results of analysis. Moreover, after the analysis of the existing literature with the knowledge of the authors and primary sources, the validated information about study have been written. The Balochistan resistance Movement which took a serious shape after assassination of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, created political unrest, social defragmentation and economic disturbance in Balochistan. Study found that there has been blame game between central government of Pakistan and nationalist leadership of Balochistan about the wrong policies and unjust distribution of national wealth in Balochistan. As a result, resistance movement in Balochistan has never been dealt serious with the honest intention. Existing literature has been well examined and tested in order to find out major causes of the Baloch Resistance Movement and also highlight way forward for the settlement of the conflict in Balochistan.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Categorically, Baloch resistance movement in Pakistan reared its head in 1948 with two diverse directions by the Baloch nationalist forces. After merger of Balochistan with Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a nationalist school of thought including Sardars and political figures continued their political struggle within democratic and constitution framework of Pakistan for guarantee of due rights of people of Balochistan. Meanwhile, an armed resistance movement continued to undo the process of merger of Balochistan with Pakistan (Ahmad & Najish, 2017). No doubt, later did not have strong public supports and was dealt timely, but it kept the foundation of Baloch resistance movement in Pakistan. Initially, the armed Baloch resistance in Pakistan was started by some chieftains and Sardars in limited areas of Balochistan, however, it gradually expanded its wings in other parts of Balochistan. The Baloch resistance in Pakistan, whether it is armed one or democratically peaceful, was always meant to ensure the basic due rights of the Baloch people (Jamali, 2013), proper political representation in national politics, fair share in national wealth and stop exploitation of natural resources since both resistance struggles felt that successive governments of Pakistan have neglected province politically and economically (Javaid, 2010).

It has been extremely tough for those Baloch nationalist figures who intended to work within the constitutional framework of Pakistan because they have been either killed or termed central puppets or traitors. Despite these hardship, their political efforts have continued for the sake of the protection of Balochistan rights. On the other hand, armed nationalist groups have not only targeted government installations, army officers and mega projects of Pakistan, they have also attacked on Baloch nationalists who worked within the constitutional framework of Pakistan (Fredric, 2013). Despite the attacks, the Baloch political parties have continued their political struggle in Balochistan. They have been trying to convince the successive federal governments of Pakistan to announce economic and social package for Balochistan, allow free and fair election and take Baloch into confidence while initiating any mega projects in Balochistan. However, it is disappointing to learn that the successive federal governments have never taken their plea seriously which has finally created sense of deprivation and alienation among ethnic group of

Baloch people. Thus, the uprisings and resistance movements have started in Balochistan. The rigid attitude of the federal governments have also deepened the intensity of Baloch narrow-nationalism.

Thus, the narrow nationalism on Baloch territory has posed serious threats to federation since the narrow nationalism has converted political struggle of the nationalist figures of Balochistan into an armed one. On the other hand, instead of addressing the genuine issues of Balochistan, successive federal governments have opted to use the coercive measures against Baloch armed struggle which has complicated province-center relations (Alamgir, 2012). Political engineering in Balochistan via local tribal & Sardari setup might have served interest of central governments temporarily, but such political realignments would surely have serious political repercussion in long run. Besides Baloch armed resistance movement in the province, some democratic and peaceful groups of Baloch nationalists who carry out political activities within constitutional framework of Pakistan, have been resisting and pressurizing on the federal governments for reassurance of Baloch equal and fair share in national wealth and politics of province (Beg et al., 2019). These nationalist forces have been labelled as traitors by armed nationalist groups in Balochistan. It is further disappointing to learn that the political efforts of former have never been acknowledged sincerely at the national level even (Khan, 2014). No doubt, in order to discourage their political struggle, the Baloch armed insurgents have threatened them to death and labelled them with slogans of anti-Baloch elements and shattered their street politics (Khan, 2014).

But, they have never been witnessed in giving up democratic struggle for the cause of Baloch rights and development. One has to accept the fact that despite all these issues, the political leadership of Balochistan, especially national groups, National Party and Balochistan National Party (Mangal) have always been observed in demanding peaceful settlement of Balochistan issue through negotiation and political dialogue with federal governments. Peaceful political resistance has always aimed to end military operation, recover all missing persons, have free and fair general election, get fair share of the Balochistan from the national wealth and most importantly, allow true political representatives of Balochistan in the national and provincial assemblies of Pakistan. They firmly believe that gulf between center and the federating units can be bridged via political dialogues. However, successive federal governments never paid any heed to their plea. Thus, their political movement and struggle have been weakened in the province (Shah, 2019). One has to accept the fact that after the passage of seventy years, Baloch resistance movement has never been tired due to the unjust approaches of successive federal governments. No doubt, resistance movement has witnessed ups and downs and divisions within ethnic group, but it always remained disrupting factor in relationship between province and federation.

One has to acknowledge the fact that the Baloch resistance movement in Pakistan is the result of the socio-economic deprivation and political rejection at national level. In addition, Baloch ethnic group has always felt of being relegated, victimized, maltreated, deprived and knowingly kept away from the mainstream politics of country. These are root causes of Baloch resistance movement which could have been settled in past; however, political engineering, the dearth of political will and lack of the proper attention on Balochistan have made everything tough, disappointing and kept the province away from development and peace. As a result, Baloch people were harsh and realistic in their struggle towards the federal governments of Pakistan.



It is disappointing to note that strained relations between federation and its unit were exploited by some regional and international factors. It was alleged that Soviet Union, India, Afghanistan, US, Iran and Israel have always supported the separatist movement of Balochistan (Mazhar et al., 2012), The Intelligence Agencies of Pakistan have produced many authentic proofs of external intervention in Balochistan using the Afghan and Iranian territories (Ali & Khan, 2020).

### **Policy Recommendation**

Baloch resistance in Pakistan is struggle of Baloch ethnic group to ensure the due fundamental rights and true political representations in the country since they believe that they have been marginalized in fields of politics, bureaucracy, education and health. They further believe that they have very less participation and involvement in national bureaucracy, judiciary system and army institutions. In this connection, the natural resources of Balochistan is another bone of contention between nationalist groups of Balochistan and central government as nationalists view that Balochistan which is endowed with natural resources and longest coastline belt, are being exploited by the federal government without giving the fair share to the Baloch people. The Baloch nationalists have serious reservations over the approaches and policies of the federal government towards Balochistan over the recent agreement of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Baloch nationalists fear that after the full-fledged operation of CPEC project, a demographic change would take place in Gwadar which would convert the Baloch people into minority.

In order to weaken the resistance movement in the province and bring Baloch at the radar of national and constitutional framework, the federal government needs to revisit its policies and approaches in Balochistan and take the following actions immediately.

- i. The federal government needs to realize fact that Balochistan issue can only be settled via political means and need to avoid any further political engineering in Balochistan. In order to end sense of deprivation and sense of alienation among Baloch people, the federal government needs to honor the true political leadership of Balochistan and ensure general free and fair elections.
- ii. Since 1948, Baloch people have always felt of exploitation of natural resources without awarding them their due share which has not only widened gulf between center and the province, it has also given birth to anti-Pakistani sentiments among Baloch people. The federal government needs to ensure economic equality and fair share from National Finance Commission (NFC) for Balochistan to end poverty in province as Balochistan is one of most backward and most instable federal units of Pakistan. Most importantly, federal government has to ensure fair share of natural resources to the area where it is penetrated.
- iii. Balochistan, being the largest province of Pakistan in term of land, has widely scattered population. In order to improve the means of communication, the federal government needs to focus on its infrastructure development. The extensive roads, bridges and railway tracks need to be improved the sooner in order to bridge the smaller villages with the other metropolitan cities of Pakistan.
- iv. The conclusion of CPEC agreement between Pakistan and China is termed to be fate changer for entire region. Fortunately, the most backward province of Pakistan hosts the hub (Gwadar Port) of CPEC agreement. Meanwhile, Baloch nationalist elements have feared that after full-fledged operation of CPEC, a serious demographic change

would occur which would convert the inhabitants of the land into minority. Therefore, for the sake of successful operation of CPEC, the federal government needs to take Baloch nationalists on board and ensure certain legislation so that the grievances and sufferings of Baloch people may ease down. In addition, the federal government along with provincial setup may ensure vocational and technical schools and training centers in order to prepare the Baloch manpower in upcoming projects in the province. Such planning would not only ease down the ratio of unemployment in Balochistan, it also helps to weaken the armed resistance movement of Balochistan in getting the moral and financial supports from the people in general.

- v. Afghan Refugees in Balochistan has been another serious matter of concern for Baloch nationalists as they view that Afghan Refugees would bring ethnic changes in province and would affect their vote bank in the Pashtun belt. Therefore, the federal government needs to ensure a policy which would help the safe extradition of Afghan Refugees to their native land.
- vi. Most importantly, Baloch nationalists always raised serious reservations over the continuous military operation in most of the areas of Balochistan. There is no doubt, Balochistan is a disturbed land which has been the center of foreign intervention and local armed insurgency. However, federal government needs to formulate certain strategies in order to skip the large scale of military operation and need to plan for surgical and smart military operation where the need occurs.
- vii. Baloch missing persons in Balochistan has been the main cause of disturbance between Baloch nationalists and the federal government which has not created anti-state sentiments in the province, it has also widened the gulf between Baloch people and federal government. Therefore, the federal government needs to take the issue seriously and should constitute certain committees which can settle the issue of Baloch missing persons immediately.

## **CONCLUSION**

The restoration of trust and confidence between center and Balochistan would not only help the settlement of genuine issues of Balochistan, it would also convert the narrow nationalistic tendencies into humanistic one. Baloch resistance in Pakistan was basically political in nature which was aimed to ensure the rights of Baloch ethnic group in Pakistan, however, it turned to be aggressive due to the rigid policies of successive federal governments towards Balochistan. The federal government needs to address the Basic issues like health, education, infrastructure, unemployment and poverty in Balochistan in order to restore confidence building measures between the Baloch political leadership and federal authority. Packages like Aghaz-e-Haqooq-Balochistan need to be announced quarterly so that Baloch people from mass in Balochistan get attached with Islamic Republic of Pakistan morally, ideologically and politically. Federal government needs to take Baloch leadership into confidence in the process of initiation and implementation of any mega projects in Balochistan so that they may not feel the sense of exploitation. In this connection, the resistance movement of Balochistan turned from political into armed one, can be settled via the political negotiations, taking the local leadership into confidence, insurance of their due rights and end of all sort of the military operations. Most importantly, unlike other provinces of Pakistan, Balochistan needs to have its own strong and large political party which could contest election in other provinces of Pakistan as well. If once a strong and majority Balochistan-based political party makes government in federation, it

would pay better attention to issues of Balochistan as compare with the other political parties of Pakistan.

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