

## Populist Terrorist Activities and their Impact in Pakistan\*

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### 논문 요약

파키스탄의 포퓰리즘 조직은 몇 가지 유형으로 나눌 수 있다. 그 중에 극단적 포퓰리즘 조직의 예를 들면 발루치스탄(Baluchistan), 신드(Sindh), 길기트(Gilgit) 등 지역의 포퓰리즘조직은 역사적, 정치적 원인으로 테러리즘 성질을 가지고 있다. 이러한 극단적 포퓰리즘 조직들은 파키스탄의 국가 안보 및 발전에 영향을 줄 뿐만 아니라 중-파 양국관계 및 “일대일로”를 중심으로 한 협력에도 영향을 준다. 이 조직들이 어떻게 형성되었는지, 어떤 특징을 갖고 있는지를 연구하고 구체적으로 파키스탄 및 국제사회에 어떠한 영향을 미치는가가 학계의 관심사이다. 본 논문은 문헌연구를 통해 파키스탄의 포퓰리즘조직을 분류하고, 조직구성 및 그들의 테러리즘활동이 미치는 영향을 연구하였다. 극단적 포퓰리즘조직들은 파키스탄의 국내정치환경을 악화시키고 본국의 국제화를 지연시킨다. 이와 더불어 파키스탄의 경제성장발전과 국민생활 수준의 향상을 저해시키고 있다. 또한 주변국가간의 외교관계도 악화시키고 있다는 점도 도출하였다.

주제어 : 파키스탄, 극단적 포퓰리즘, 테러리즘, 일대일로

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## I. Introduction

Populism is a kind of social thoughts and social-political phenomena emerged in the process of modernization. Populism was born with an anti-institution, anti-elite and grassroots nature. The main group of people with this demand is the working masses in the middle and lower classes of society. In most cases, populism is formed during social transformation. Modern social transformation, though, keeps bringing the middle and lower classes to participate in political affairs and be exposed to new cultures and new ways of life, it has become a major social root of populism in the process of cultural contacting at the period when cultural identity has not taken shape. Pakistan's domestic populism, which can be traced back to the time when Pakistan gained independence, obtained development space owing to the incompleteness of the nation's democratic institution.

However, the academic community generally hold the view that Pakistan's populism born after the partition of India and Pakistan can be regarded as a populism in the real sense. As an Islamic country, Pakistan has been closely associated with Islam since its founding and the religion has also merged into the people's life. Pakistan's domestic populism mainly spreads through religious activities coupled with other methods like military actions, interference and media communication. Judging from current international situation, the increasingly rampant anti-globalization and anti-free-trade trend raised by US President Trump coupled with ideologies of the white supremacy and US supremacy has led to the rise of populist movements in many countries and regions, exerting a negative impact on the international community. At present, in two areas Pakistan has shown a clear populist tendency. On the one hand, populist organizations like those in Baluchistan, Sindh, Gilgit and other regions have become extreme and taken on a certain

terrorist nature owing to Pakistan's historical and political particularities as well as the long history of its domestic terrorism. On the other hand, Pakistan's government elections also show signs of tendency to populism. In the 2018 general election of the Pakistan National Assembly, namely the lower house, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party defeated both the Pakistan Muslim League Party and the Pakistan People's Party, which had taken turns to be in power for a long time. It took 115 of the 270 seats in the National Assembly and become the largest party. Furthermore, Imran Khan was elected the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and the Pakistani government has entered an era of populism since then.

To sum up, in order to promote the cooperation between China and Pakistan and prevent Pakistani populism from bringing further negative influence to China-Pakistan relations, it is of significance to study the types of Pakistan's domestic populism on the grounds of its rising, identify extreme populism that is more threatening than other kinds of populism and study the impact of extreme populism through sorting and analyzing extreme populist terrorist activities. Resorting to a literature review approach, and by tracing the development of populist ideology, this paper classifies these populisms. Firstly, the study sorts relevant populist organizations especially extreme populist organizations. Secondly, the study makes a bottom-up analysis of both extreme populist terrorist activities and their influence and finally draws a conclusion.

## **II. Tracing the Ideological Development of Pakistani Populism**

### **1. The Classification of Pakistan's Domestic Populism**

Since the emergence of populism, the development level of different populisms has varied due to differences in respective social status,

cultural background, political governance, and geographic condition. As a multi-ethnic country founded on the basis of the Theory of Two Nations, Pakistan faces serious issues relating to ethnic groups, and its domestic populist movement is very complicated and diverse in form. Pakistan's domestic populist ideologies can be divided into moderate populism and extreme populism according to the intensity of respective populist movement or into social populism and religious populism according to the pursuit of the populist movement. Referring to the classification of ideologies, priority will be given to the tracing back of the extreme populism's development history in this paper. Moderate populism, which is more likely to gain acceptance of the people, owns a broader social foundation. It is mainly held by Saraiki nationalists in Punjab and some moderate Sindhi nationalists within the Sindh province. However, the pursuits of the two populist groups are quite diverse. Saraiki populists aim to strengthen their influence and acquire more resources from the government while moderate Sindhi populists strive for expanding their autonomy. However, extreme populism is far influential than moderate populism nationwide. There are three representatives of extreme populist ideologies in Pakistan: the extreme Sindhi populism that supports Sayyid's "Free Sindh Movement", the extreme Baluchi terrorist populism, and the talibanized tribal populism in Pakistan's tribal areas.

## 2. The Ideology of Extreme Nationalism in Pakistan

Sindhi extreme populism has a long development history. Oblivious unawareness of the importance of education has led to general low quality of the entire population in this region. For a long time before the India-Pakistan division, the Sindhi Muslims who believe in Islam mostly had been engaging in agricultural production in the rural areas of Sindh, while Hindus were controlling the development of cities, politics,

economy, industry and commerce. After the partition of India and Pakistan, Hindus moved out of the Sindhi area, and then the Pakistani government began to implement the "one unit" policy. Even so, there was no obvious improvement in the living conditions and social status of Sindhi Muslims. What's more, some foreign officials and officers came and occupied a large part of the land the Sindhi people had once owned. From then, Sindhi populist movement, which was based on the middle and lower classes of Sindh, began to spring up. Since most Sindhi people are less-educated, they have long been in a weak position in the political governance system for a long time. Therefore, this populist force is largely of an extreme nature, and it appeals to separate Sindh from Pakistan and establish its own country.

The populist movement in Balochistan is even more extreme in nature. Balochi is a cross-border ethnic group with a total population of about 3.65 million in Pakistan, mainly distributed in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The social organization remains in the tribal stage in form. In the view of most Baluchi, although Balochistan is rich in natural resources, its economic development and social system construction is far behind other parts of Pakistan. The central government plunders resources from Balochistan only and does not promise any compensation to Baluchi in the redistribution of national resources. The Baluchi people's populist sentiment has been aroused due to the differences in the form of social organization, the lack of historical and cultural identity, and the people's resentment for having been suppressed and unequally treated by the central government. At present, the Baloch continues to carry out populist movement mainly through terrorist activities, to seek the independence of Balochistan. Terrorist forces in Balochistan, including the Balochistan Liberation Army and other tribal armed forces, have emerged as the major threat to Pakistan's domestic security.

The talibanized populism in tribal areas of Pakistan is another important form of extreme populism. The so-called talibanization refers to promoting a ruling mode similar to the fundamentalism of the Afghan Taliban regime, namely to implement a combination of politics and religion in a country or a region, which is blindly retro, xenophobic, anti-western and anti-modern and aims to maintain its governance by means of local armed forces or religious extremist forces. Pakistan's domestic talibanization is featured by obvious extremism, frequent armed violence, and extensive public involvement. From the perspective of public involvement, these talibanized extremist activities also have obvious characteristics of populism. Pakistan's domestic talibanized populist forces are mainly distributed in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan on the northwestern border. The core leadership of the talibanized populist forces in Pakistan is mostly Pashtun people, a cross-border ethnic group living in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. This branch of populist forces does not pursue autonomy, separatism, or fair redistribution of resources and interests, as is the case with traditional populist forces. Rather, they place a higher value on religious interests, clamour that the interests of the Muslim world are higher than that of a nation or a country, and advocate Jihad and takfiri doctrine. Under the influence of the extreme thinking, these talibanized populist forces have become the most threatening extreme religious populist forces the Pakistani government faces.

### **III. Pakistan's Domestic Extreme Populist Organizations and Their Terrorist Activities**

Many of Pakistan's domestic extremist populist organizations have been included in the list of terrorist organizations by the government of

Pakistan. The major extreme populist organizations in Pakistan are as follows:

Table 1: An Overview of Pakistan's Domestic Major Extreme Populist Organizations

Serial number	Corresponding English name	Current leader	Organization type	Activity scope	Political position and ideology
1	Jamiat Ulem-e Islam (f) , <b>JUIF</b>	Molana Fazalur Rehman	Extremist/Religious populist religious party	Across the nation	Extreme right wing; Deobandi school; Priesthood; Religious conservatism; Social conservatism
2	Jamaat-e-islami Pakistan, <b>JIP</b>	Siraj Ul Haq	Extreme/Religious populist religious party	Across the nation	Extreme right; Religious nationalism; Religious conservatism; Pan-islamism
3	Tehreek-e-Labbai k Pakistan, <b>TLP</b>	Khadim Hussain Rizvi	Extreme/Religious populist religious party	Across the nation	Extreme right; Islamism; Bareilvi Islamic thought
4	Balochistan Liberation Army, <b>BLA</b>	Hyrbyai r Marri	Extreme/Social populist armed groups	Balochistan	Balochist nationalism; separatism
5	Baloch Liberation Front, <b>BLF</b>	Allah Nazar Baluch	Extreme/Social populist armed organization	Balochistan	Marxism-Leninism (self-proclaimed); Balochistan nationalism;
6	Baloch Republican Army, <b>BRA</b>	Unkown	Extreme/Social populist armed organization	Balochistan	Balochist nationalism; separatism
7	Sindh Liberation Front, <b>SLF/ Sindh Desh Liberation Army, SLA/SD LA</b>	Ghulam Murtaza Syed	Extreme/Social populist armed organization	Sindh	Sindhi nationalism Anti-imperialist; separatism;
8	Baloch Students Organization, <b>BSO</b>	Karima	Extreme/Social populist student organization	Balochistan	Left wing ; Balochist nationalism; separatism

Populist terrorist activity represents the most threatening populist activity to Pakistan’s national security as well as social stability. This paper refers to the data on terrorist activities in Pakistan from 2000 to 2017 released by the Global Terrorism Database (GTD, 2019) as a way

to analyze the populist terrorist activities in Pakistan. Here, populist terrorist activities, which are typically featured by populist anti-institution and anti-modernization characteristics and take the Pakistani government and foreign investors as the main attack targets, are selected for data analysis.

According to the data released by GTD, the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan since 2000 is tallied up and shown in Figure 1.

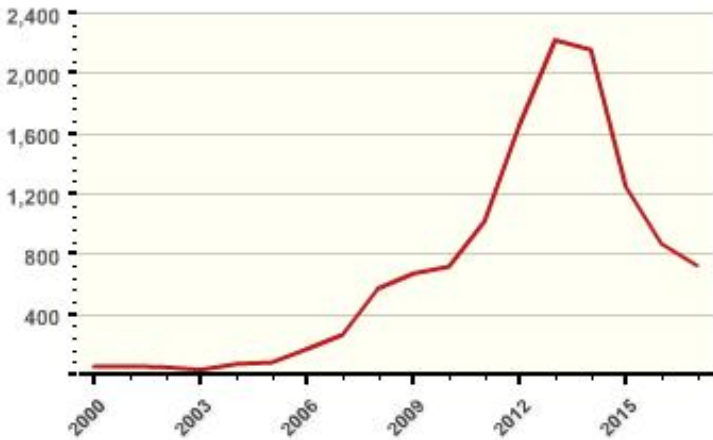


Figure 1 Statistics on the number of terrorist activities in Pakistan since 2000(GTD, 2019)

Among them, the statistics on the number of populist terrorist attacks against commercial activities and government departments for a certain political, economic, religious or social purpose are shown in Figure 2:



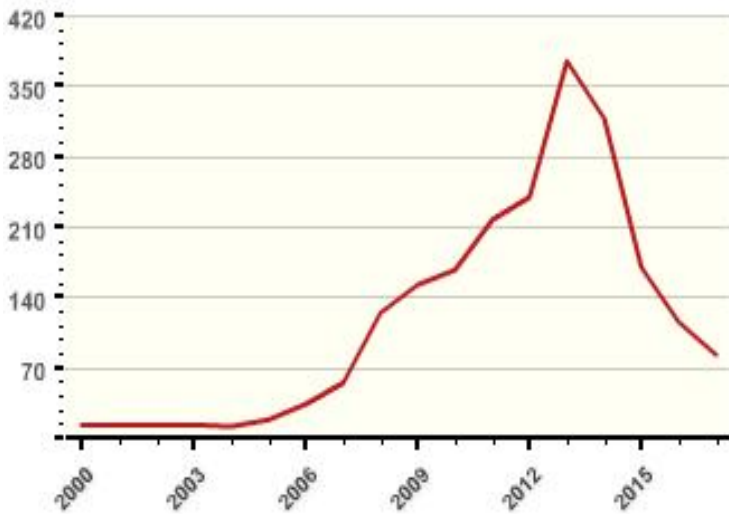


Figure 2 Statistics on the number of populist terrorist activities against commercial activities and government departments in Pakistan since 2000(GTD, 2019)

Statistics on populist terrorist activities against commercial activities are shown in Figure 3:

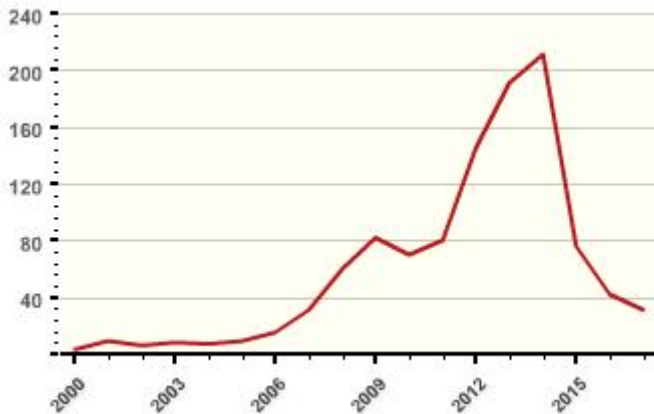


Figure 3 Statistics on the number of populist terrorist activities against commercial activities in Pakistan since 2000(GTD, 2019)

Statistics on populist terrorist activities against government departments are shown in Figure 4:

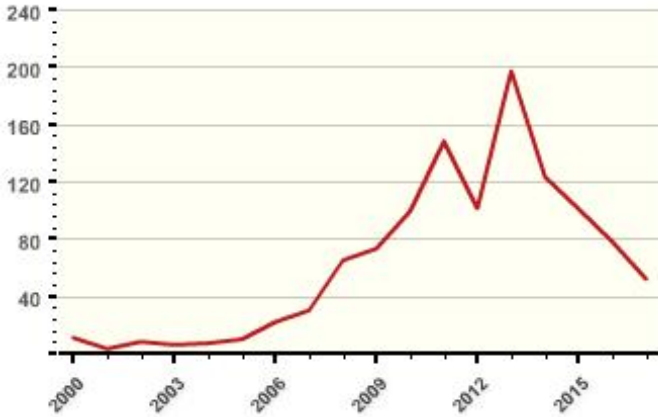


Figure 4 Statistics on the number of populist terrorist activities against government departments in Pakistan since 2000(GTD, 2019).

The partition statistics on the number of casualties per incident are shown in Figure 5:

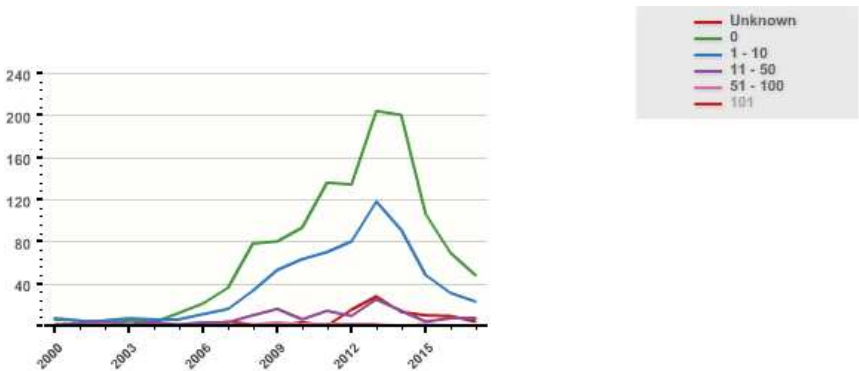


Figure 5 Statistics on the number of populist terrorist activities against government departments in Pakistan since 2000(GTD, 2019).

From the above chart, it is clearly shown that: First, because of the relatively weak political governance of the Pakistani government from 2009 to 2015, the incidence rate of populist terrorist activities in Pakistan is at its peak during this period, especially in 2013. Secondly, Pakistan's populist terrorist activities account for nearly 20% of its total domestic terrorist activities, emerging as a major part of terrorist activities in Pakistan. Third, among populist terrorist activities in Pakistan, small and medium-sized terrorist attacks with fewer casualties are more than major terrorist attacks with more than 50 casualties. In addition, in the past seventeen years, the most high-incidence period of Pakistan's populist terrorist activities was in 2012-2014, and the second was in 2008-2010. These two periods were the holding time of general elections during which the people were more willing to express their thoughts and feelings but they got nowhere to resort to. Therefore, these two periods were featured by high incidence of populist activities.

The following are some of the representative populist terrorist attacks since 2000:

(1) On November 11, 2014: A roadside bomb detonated on Double Road in Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan, targeting Nazeer Ahmed Langove, a judge of the Anti-Terrorism Court. Although Langove was not injured, a civilian was killed, more than 20 people were injured and nearby houses, shops and vehicles were also damaged in the explosion. The Balochist Army(UBA) claimed responsibility for the incident(GTD, 2019).

(2) On September 27, 2014: A motorcycle filled with explosives was detonated next to a tea stall and a market near Chakar Road in Sibi, Balochitan, Pakistan. At least two people were killed and 23 others were injured in the incident. The Balochistan Republican Guard(BRG) claimed responsibility for the incident and they claimed to had killed the intelligence officer(GTD, 2019).

(3) On September 9, 2012: In the mosque in Dera Bugti, Balochistan, Pakistan, the terrorists placed bombs in the shoes of the Congressman Ahmedan Bugti. When Ahmedan Bugti put on his shoes, the attackers detonated the bomb and 12 people were injured. The Balochist Republican Army (BRA) claimed responsibility for the blasting, and the organization explained that the congressman's anti-Balochistan deeds made himself their attack target(GTD, 2019).

(4) On May 1, 2002: In two related incidents, the attackers detonated two previously buried bombs in Karachi, Pakistan. The two bombings took place about 30 minutes apart in the Queen Market, and 16 people were injured. Local authorities speculated that the attack was related to what MQM called a strike. However, MQM did not claim responsibility for the bombings(GTD, 2019).

#### **IV. The Influence of Extremist Populist Terrorist Activities in Pakistan**

Pakistan's complex inter-ethnic relations are based on a common religious belief, the identity of Islam, but the federal government of Pakistan has not been able to take the advantage to effectively integrate and properly deal with their relations. As mentioned above, the extreme populist organizations in Sindh province, Balochistan province and other regions in Pakistan constitute majority of the representativeness. The movements of the populist organizations in these regions have great political influence and bring great security risks to country's economy, society, diplomacy and other fields, as shown in the following aspects:

### 1. Deteriorating the Domestic Political Environment and Hindering Pakistan's Globalization Integration Process

Since the establishment of Pakistan, in the political arena, the confrontation between the local separatist forces and the central state-controlled forces has been in an intensive situation, because of the complex and special ethnic and religious relations as well as the inequality of the central government's distribution of interests in the process of political governance caused by its family's political traditions. The existence of extremist populist groups and their campaigns have added to Pakistan's already volatile domestic politics. As local discontent and anxiety boiled over, populist forces were directed at the governmental system and the elite class. This is bound to bring about a political crisis, disrupt the existing political order, and also threaten Pakistan's national governance. Local populists' distrust of the federal government tends to lead them to define government policies as local encroachment and control, and the populists may respond to it with prevention, criticism and resistance. Under the influence of populist sentiments, all kinds of events, big or small, can result in violent conflicts. Taking Balochistan province as an example, the ideology problem caused by cultural identity and the continuous simmering of populist ideas, the province highly questioned the motives of the central government and its centrifugal tendency from the central government is becoming more evident. It always emphasized the idea that the interests of Balochistan people were marginalized and the resources were exploited. Consequently, the political behavior pattern began, aiming at criticism and attack. Under this pattern, there will be a series of crises in the political field that threaten the regime of the country : 1) A large number of government personnel and institutions have left the province,

resulting in the absence of public administration functions of the provincial government ; 2) After the destruction of the political system, populist parties attempt to establish a "shadow government" so as to form a political undercurrent for themselves. 3) The political crisis will trigger a new round of struggle between the military government and the civil service group, which will lead to political imbalance and social discord and aggravate the split of Pakistan's politics.

At present, in the Western political arena, the emerging populist trend of thought has greatly hindered the process of globalization. The populist forces in the Western countries have continued to expand. In Europe, the Brexit agenda of the United Kingdom has caused a heavy blow to the process of European integration. The internal and external Euroscepticism has been gradually aroused, and the pressure on the French-German axis has become increasingly burdened within the EU. The outlook for the EU is worrisome. Meanwhile, the refugee tides and extreme terrorist attacks in the Middle East has caused great trauma to Westerners. The xenophobia in Europe continues to grow and people's social psychology and ideological identity have been strongly impacted. These provide a fertile ground for the development of populism, thus forming a confrontation between nationalism and cosmopolitanism. Populism, whether on the left or the right, is an irrational ideological trend of extremism, which is not constructive but destructive to political development. At a stage of uncertainty, populist politics can be quite damaging. As it is true in Pakistan, populist movements can express public opinion and ask questions, but they cannot solve problems correctly and often lead to irrational political choices. Whereas political governance still depends on rational expression and system.

## 2. Constraining the Domestic Economic Development

According to statistics, from fiscal year 2005 to 2015, economic losses caused by security problems in Pakistan amounted to 100 billion dollars, which is estimated to be the total amount of the investment in education in Pakistan in the past 134 years (business-standard.com, 2019). In response to the damage caused by the extreme populist activities, the Pakistani government has spent huge domestic fiscal expenditures, which has led to the government's ability to invest in other areas of economic endeavors and has greatly weakened the social development, thus hampering domestic economic growth. From the perspective of foreign capital inflows, the development of Pakistan's domestic populism has caused Pakistan's investment risk in the international market to rise and also the country, is assessed by international rating agencies as unsuitable for investment. The security risks brought about by populism have also seriously affected Pakistan's tourism industry. Due to the influence of terrorism, many foreign tourists choose to stay away from Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Increased spending on equipment and training for Pakistan's security forces has reduced funding allocations for other sectors like economic and social development. Many livelihood projects and investment projects under construction have been delayed or suspended due to a lack of funds. Overseas investors have also lost confidence in Pakistan's domestic market. Nazik Hussain, a Pakistani scholar at Islamic university of Bahawalpur, concluded from a quantitative analysis of the country's net foreign direct investment and the number of terrorist attacks between 2000 and 2013: The annual net foreign direct investment in Pakistan is inversely correlated with the number of terrorist attacks. Therefore, the terrorist attacks in Pakistan not only caused huge economic losses, but also restricted its economic development. In Balochistan, where the

Balochistan people's liberation army is the leader of populist terrorist forces, has the longest coastline and the richest mineral and natural gas resources. However, in terms of social and economic development, Balochistan is one of the poorest and most backward provinces in Pakistan as local extreme populist forces continue to disrupt large government-led developments at oil and gas installations, mines, dams and construction sites, forcing the government to scale back investments in the economy and increase spending on maintaining stability while shelving its plans for development. Agriculture is the second most affected area in Balochistan province. As a pillar industry in the national economic system, the agriculture itself has poor risk resistance and cannot guarantee effective growth without a secure environment. About 30% of Balochistan's GDP comes from agriculture, and about 75% of the population live directly or indirectly on agriculture. The province has 6.4 million hectares of arable land, but the actual utilization rate is less than 27%, which poses a serious threat to the health and stability of Pakistan's economy. The security of a country has great influence on its economic development. In Pakistan, minorities from the bottom, who have no access to welfare or are ignored by the government, are drawing attention from the upper levels through protests or violence. This has put more pressure on the security situation in the region and led to a more sluggish economic development, which, to some extent, has also led the development of the region fall into a vicious circle of the security situation.

### 3. Bringing Down the Pakistanis' Living Standard and Causing Despair

Compared with the economic and political aspects, the influence of the Pakistan populist forces on the social level is mainly reflected in employment and social psychology. In terms of public employment, the



social security is unstable due to continuous unrest and harassment. It is accompanied by large-scale mass unemployment, which exacerbates people's poverty. Unemployment may also make some helpless middle and lower classes in despair more vulnerable to others' incitement to join extremist organizations. In terms of social psychology, the emergence of populism contains the connotation of anti-system and anti-elite. The prevalence of populism in Pakistan shows that the class gap in Pakistan is widening and the class is solidifying. The people in the middle and lower classes are hostile to the system than the elite class. The split social form and the centrifugal tendency between the people and the government becomes more and more obvious. Thus, the social psychology shows more anxiety, pressure, anger and depression. It is not just Pakistan alone that faces the same problem but also many other countries where populism is on the rise.

#### 4. Posing a Threat to the Development of India-Pakistan, Afghanistan-Pakistan And China-Pakistan Relations

The continued rise of populist forces will once again bring the diplomatic relations between Pakistan and India, the old enemies, to a standstill. The two countries have a long history of disputes over sovereignty in Kashmir and both suffer from the interlinked terrorism in their countries. Since the beginning of the 21st century, India's economy has developed rapidly and its comprehensive national strength has been constantly improved. On the contrary, Pakistan's domestic economic and social development is seriously affected by terrorism. The development of populism in Pakistan to some extent promotes the rampant level of domestic terrorist activities, bringing a series of political, economic and security problems to Pakistan, which have affected the normal socio-economic production order. The development gap between India and

Pakistan and the demarcation of Kashmir and other historical issues have made the relationship between the two countries very delicate. Pakistan's secret support for anti-Indian terror in Kashmir, the rise of the extreme populist forces in places such as Baluchistan, and the looming presence of Indian's influence has made the already fragile relations between India and Pakistan even worse.. Pakistan wants to use the anti-terrorism actions to counter India's influence in Pakistan and Kashmir. India on the other hand balances Pakistan's presence in the border region by implicitly supporting populist separatists in Baluchistan and elsewhere in creating chaos in Pakistan. At the same time, India has been worried that Pakistan's Islamic terrorism will spread to India. Consequently, if the extremist forces represented by the Islamist populist groups in Pakistan continue to grow and even pose a threat to the national security of India, the development of India-Pakistan relationship will face new obstacles and the relationship will be in a lasting deadlock.

Second, the rising populist forces in Pakistan will make it difficult for Afghanistan and Pakistan to develop their relations in a usual way. To some extent, the peaceful liberation of Afghanistan depends on Pakistan, and the peace and stability of Pakistan is also subject to Afghanistan. In a way, the relationship between the two countries is constrained by the internal terrorist forces. Due to the low governance level of the two countries' governments, on the border of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa there has always been the hotbeds of cross-border terrorist organizations, resulting in the status quo that the Taliban, Al Qaeda and other terrorist forces remain suppressed but not eradicated in the two countries. The two countries are also at odds over terrorism. Pakistan's populist terrorist forces represented by Balochistan Liberation Army constantly challenge the authority of Pakistan's federal government by creating riots and terrorist attacks in the country, which has seriously damaged the national image of Pakistan. The clamor for

a "Balochistan" on abroad that includes parts of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran territories poses challenges to the Afghan government's post-war reconstruction, national identity building and political governance. So long as these problems persist, the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan will continue to be at odds with each other.

Finally, the development of Pakistan's domestic populist forces will also bring new challenges to China-Pakistan partnership. Pakistan is an important country in China's "Road and Belt" initiative. The construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is of great strategic influence on China's western development strategy. The construction of the corridor in the Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan regions in Pakistan has been subject to varying degrees of resistance, particularly in Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan. Local extreme populist forces universally believe that the economic corridor is to exploit their rich natural resources and is China's "Economic Aggression". Baluchistan Liberation Army once declared that China's project construction seriously infringes the interests of Baluchistan, and repeatedly threatened to attack on China in the project. In Pakistan, from 2005 to 2014, there were more than 220 attacks aiming at oil and gas pipelines. It is difficult to guarantee the safety of Chinese institutions and personnel stationed in Pakistan. Besides, the construction, procurement, labor recruitment and other activities involved in the construction of the "Road and Belt" project will inevitably have close contact with the local society, so the extreme populist forces in Pakistan will continuously influence the construction and operation of the project as well in the future.

## V. Conclusion

Pakistan's rising populism has become a significant factor hindering Pakistan to develop its economy, improve the people's living standards and also to integrate into the international community. Especially in the current prevailing international context of "anti-globalization" and "anti-free trade", Pakistan's populism has a growing trend. Pakistan's populist tendencies are not only evident in some regions, but also the biggest party of Pakistan in parliament, Tehreek-e-Insaf Party elected in 2018, and the new prime minister, Imran Khan, are in favor of populism. Of all the populist groups, extreme populism has been the most destructive force bringing huge impact on Pakistan. This paper traces and classifies the populist ideology in Pakistan, and focuses on tracking the organization, activities and the influence of extreme populism. The conclusions are as follows:

First, Pakistan's extreme populism has worsened the country's political environment, intensified the contradiction between the central state-building forces and the local separatist forces, and hindered its integration into the process of globalization. Second, it has severely constrained Pakistan's domestic economic development, compressed the country's investment in other sectors as economic and social development, and it also undermined the confidence of the international investment in Pakistan. Third, the extreme populism has reduced the living standard of the Pakistani people, intensified the enmity between different social classes, and caused the social security situation to remain unstable. Finally, the extreme populism of Pakistan has once again led to the deadlock of India-Pakistan relations, which has made the situation worse. It has also made it difficult to normalize the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It has also generated the new challenges for China-Pakistan relations centering on the "Road and Belt" economic and trade cooperation and cultural exchanges.

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<Abstract>

## Populist Terrorist Activities and their Impact in Pakistan

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In Pakistan, there are various types of populist organizations, among which some extreme populist organizations such as those in Baluchistan, Sindh, Gilgit and other regions have become extreme and taken on a certain terrorist nature because of Pakistan's history and politics as well as the long tradition of Pakistan's domestic terrorism. These extremist populist organizations have not only posed a threat to Pakistan's national security and development, but also hindered the strengthening of both China-Pakistan bilateral relations and the cooperation around the Belt and Road Initiative. The specific organizational structure of these extreme populist groups and the impact of their terrorist activities on both Pakistan and the rest of the world deserve attention in the academic community. By adopting a literature review approach, in this paper, Pakistan's domestic populist organizations are sorted reasonably, the structure of extreme populist organizations is clarified accordingly, and the influence of their terrorist activities is noted emphatically. The conclusion drawn is that Pakistan's domestic extreme populist groups have not only severely constrained Pakistan's economic development and lowered the people's living standards, but also hindered the strengthening of Pakistan's diplomatic relations with neighboring countries, thus worsening Pakistan's domestic political environment and impeding its integration into the trend of globalization.

**Keywords** : Pakistan, Extreme Populism, Terrorism, the Belt and Road Initiative