



CSPS ACADEMY G-10 ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Beyond the Crisis State

Summarized

CSPs Research Team

Introduction by Maleeha Lodhi

Maleeha Lodhi served as an Ambassador of Pakistan to the US for two terms (1993-1996 and 1999-2002) and to the UK for five years (2003-2008). She is currently serving as the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, the first ever woman of Pakistan to hold that position. She is the author of two books; first one being 'Pakistan's Encounter with Democracy and The External Challenge'. In her recent book, 'Pakistan: Beyond the Crisis State', she brought seventeen Pakistani intellectuals, economists, political thinkers and military experts to discuss the themes of governance, security, economic and human development, foreign policy and various complex domestic and international factors that contributed towards determining the future of Pakistan.

What the book tries to explain:

All the articles included in this book assert that all the problems and challenges of Pakistan can be solved and overcome. The first chapter of the book, 'The Past as Present', written by a renowned Professor Ayesha Jalal, argues that the current problems of Pakistan are the outcome of its troubled history. She further elaborates that without a credible history and without delving into history with open mindedness, the people of Pakistan cannot change the course of their reason, and develop a sense of historical consciousness. Dr Akbar S. Ahmed, author of many award-winning books, contributed a chapter 'Why Jinnah Matters' and discusses about the idea of a theocratic state and a modern state in which religion has nothing to do with the state's matters. He has included some speeches of Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the issue of Pakistan as an Islamic and secular state, and establishes that no voice is more important than Jinnah's. The next contribution is made by an award-winning novelist Mohsin Hamid.

Why Pakistan Will Survive:

His chapter, 'Why Pakistan will Survive', offers an optimistic view of Pakistan by highlighting its strength in diversity. He also argues that tax collection can serve better in the development sector. At the end of his chapter, he says that a bright future awaits Pakistan if Pakistanis are willing to pay for it.

Beyond the Crisis State:

Maleeha Lodhi's own chapter, 'Beyond the Crisis State', is a detailed overview of internal and external factors responsible for the troubled political history of Pakistan. She discusses five fault lines of the country that must be overcome to chart a new, hopeful course. She also asserts in her chapter that dynamics of state and society have been transformed, and in order to lay strong foundations for a



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functional and responsive country, politics must adhere to those changes. The next two chapters discuss the role of the Army as a central element of Pakistan's politics.

Army & Politics:

Shuja Nawaz in his chapter, 'Army and Politics', argues that if Pakistan wants to survive as a successful nation, the Army needs not to intervene in the matters of the Government. He also states that the supremacy of civil departments should be the goal. In the next chapter, 'Praetorians and the People', by Saeed Shafqat states that two paradoxical trends have been seen in the post-2008 election period: the traditional political elite continuity and the shift in the composition of civil and military bureaucracy. He also argues that civil-military relations are also improving that will eventually reduce the possibility of any military intervention.

Ideologically Adrift:

The next chapter, 'Ideologically Adrift', is based on the role played by ideology in Pakistan's evolution. In this chapter Ziad Haider argues that Islam has been used for various purposes from nation building to security that has brought multifaceted challenges to Pakistan. He says that if Pakistan wants to overcome those challenges, a new Islamic narrative should be developed for a progressive change. A chapter entitled, 'Battling Militancy', by Zahid Hussain continues the discussion holding the view that still a number of measures and strategies are required to effectively and comprehensively battle against militancy and extremism.

Retooling Institutions:

The next few chapters deal with the economic policy of Pakistan. Dr Ishrat Hussain in his chapter, 'Retooling Institutions', gives a detailed account of civil services and economic reforms and establishes that any policy, no matter how well crafted, can be successful without solid institutions.

An Economic Crisis State:

Dr Meekal Ahmed, a top Pakistani economist, in his chapter 'An Economic Crisis State?' focuses on the implementation of key economic reforms to make the economic sector strong keeping in mind the country's economic potential. On the same lines, Muddassar Mazhar Malik, discusses some strategies for Pakistan as a strong and successful economic state.

The Energy Sector:

In the next chapter, Ziad Alahdad, says that energy sector is the single greatest impediment in the way of Pakistan's economic recovery, and the way forward for economic revival. The next chapter discusses another important development sector of Pakistan that is education. In this chapter Moeed Yousuf and Shanza Khan argue that education should be considered as the right of the people. The essential policies should be implemented for more accelerated and visible improvements in this important sector. Feroz Hassan Khan explains in his chapter that how the nuclear capability of Pakistan averted many wars with India and also allowed Pakistan to focus on other priority areas.



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The strategic lens:

Munir Akram's chapter 'Reversing Strategic Shrinking' highlights the current strategic challenges to Pakistan ranging from Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan, economic stagnation and energy crisis. Ahmed Rashid in his chapter 'The Afghan Conundrum' highlights the problems of Afghanistan in the backdrop of NATO exit and the critical role of Pakistan for the peace talks. In the last chapter Dr Syed Riffat Hussain, talks about the troubled relations between India and Pakistan and also lists many occasions when agreements have been reached as a reminder that good relations are beneficial for both the countries.

The Conclusion:

In her concluding remarks, Maleeha Lodhi explains various policies to overcome the challenges that the country is currently facing. She further asserts that no policy could be implemented without a political will. Besides, this is a thought-provoking book for those interested in various issues related to Pakistan. It is a fine piece of work, written by specialists from various fields and provides a deep analysis of many issues confronting Pakistan with different policy choices and a way forward.