National Security Policy 2022-2026 and Baluchistan: A critique

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Abstract:

The province of Baluchistan has always remained a source of concern for Pakistan. From the beginning, Baloch nationalists have challenged the writ of the state based on the suppression of their rights. This challenge has posed serious threats to the security apparatus and, also to the nationalistic narrative. The focus of the government of Imran Khan in the National Security Policy 2022-2026 was on the safety and security of its citizens. This citizen-centric approach rests on two aspects—national cohesion and the prosperity of its citizens. This document provides strategic guidance for policy actions. The question still haunts how such reconciliatory policies can be applied. There is a need to apply reconciliatory mechanisms to solve this issue. The question this paper, hence, seeks to answer is—what kinds of reconciliatory mechanisms can be applied to make the nationalist forces part of mainstream politics? A qualitative approach would be applied in this study where data would be collected from primary sources—National Security Policy documents and secondary sources—published articles.

Keywords: Security, Insurgency, Reconciliation, Minority Rights

Introduction:

Pakistan has unveiled its first-ever National Security Policy 2022-2026 in the previous government (NSD, 2022). The main objective behind the formulation of the document is to reorient and redesign the policy objectives that are vital for the national narrative and nation-building. The document has used the semantic 'citizen-centric' approach to deal with the current complex issues Pakistan faces. It is divided into different sections – policy formulation, national security framework, national cohesion, securing economic future, defence, internal security, foreign policy and human security. The areas of concern in this paper are national cohesion and internal security. Pakistan is a federal state that is contaminated with the colonial legacy (Grare, 2013). Pakistan is a heterogeneous nation that relies on the federal model of governance. A Federation is a system that rests on a complex balance where the central authority demands national cohesion and federating units aspire to become more autonomous (Ali, 2024). Unfortunately, the political system of Pakistan has remained weak leadership – civil and military that promoted

authoritative and central policies that emphasized state-building over nation-building. This phenomenon has resulted in a weak law and order situation, secessionist hues and tussles between the federal government and provincial governments.

Baluchistan with all its grievances ranging from economic, political and social is a source of concern. The nationalist forces and insurgents are serious threats to nation-building in Pakistan. Verily, these issues surfaced because of the negligence of the state apparatus. The research questions that this research paper aims to answer include which strategies the government used in the past? what kinds of reconciliatory mechanisms can be applied to make the nationalist forces part of mainstream politics? Is the National Security Policy of Pakistan enough to resolve the Baluchistan crisis? This paper aims to analyse the National Security Document and find reconciliatory mechanisms to make nationalist forces part of mainstream politics. The paper argues that in the security document there is no mention of a strategy that will relieve the grievances of Baluchistan. The literature review is arguing about that how the issues of minority groups can be mitigated with the application of rigorous policy actions. This paper applies the "Theory of Minority Rights given by Will Kymlicka and Wayne Norman. The issue and gap lies with the National Security Policy and by applying the theory this paper aims to fill that gap. This paper has used a content analysis qualitative approach where primary and secondary sources are used. Analysing and concluding various texts of primary and secondary nature. Primary data is collected from the National Security Policy document and secondary data from published journal articles and books. The paper is divided into sections that include the literature review, historical background of the Baluchistan issue, reconciliatory policy options, critique and conclusion.

Literature Review:

Kymlicka & Norman (2016) have discussed the rights of ethno-linguistic minority groups. Their framework is to accommodate diverse ethnicities in societies on public policies, and legal and political rights (Kymlicka & Norman, 2000). Two distinct features are focused on that the rights of minorities are different from the rights of the majority and need to be protected; secondly, the rights are adopted to recognize the distinguishing aspects of the minorities (Jones, 2009). Political scientists and philosophers have not given any attention to minority rights before so in liberal democracies the minority groups have to accommodate themselves with the general rights provided in the constitutions. They argued that the rights of minorities are a complex phenomenon and their rights must not be mixed with the rights of a simple majority. They trying to create an argument that minorities with their distinct ethnicity, culture, and language must be given distinct rights which must go beyond the common political and civic practices. These rights must be given to ethnic and cultural minorities for greater cultural assimilation.

Right to Preserve Culture:

The "Right to Preserve Culture" places a strong emphasis on how crucial it is to protect minority groups' cultural identities within a wider social context (Kymlicka, 2004). This right emphasises how important it is to let minority cultures continue to exist independently of the dominant culture and to maintain their customs, languages, and ways of life. Minority cultures must have the freedom to preserve and transmit their cultural legacy to the next generations in a diverse society. This entails shielding them from laws and social forces that could weaken or eliminate their unique cultural identity. Recognising the importance of cultural diversity and making sure that minority groups have the freedom and resources to continue their cultural practises, beliefs, and traditions without encountering prejudice constitute the fundamental components of this right.

Exemptions Granted to Minorities:

The minorities are given exemptions from the laws and practices that snub their freedom. The laws which are made for the majority do not apply to minorities and indigenous people (Jones, 2009). Laws made in a community, which frequently reflect the beliefs, customs, and preferences of the majority, may not adequately or fairly address the unique needs and issues of indigenous people and other marginalised groups. This discrepancy may mean that certain groups' rights and interests are not adequately protected by laws that appear to apply to everyone.

Some laws or policies might unintentionally harm minority or indigenous communities or ignore their unique circumstances and cultural concerns. For example, these groups may not effectively have their interests served by laws that are designed without taking into account their particular cultural, historical, or social contexts. For this reason, there is a need for laws and policies that take these minority groups and indigenous people's needs into consideration. It is acknowledged that, within the larger framework of society, these communities may need particular protections or considerations in order to preserve their autonomy, language, land rights, and cultural integrity. Laws that actively protect the rights and interests of minority and indigenous groups, guarantee their participation in decision-making processes and preserve their distinctive cultural identities. They also support a legal and political framework that recognises and respects the cultural diversity within a society.

Assistance Rights:

Moreover, assistance rights are provided to minorities in liberal democracies. The lingual and educational rights of minorities and indigenous people need to be safeguarded. Minorities may have different educational concerns than the majority of a certain state concerning literature and language (Kymlicka & Norman, 1994). Minority groups in a state or society frequently have different educational needs than the majority population, especially when it comes to literature and language. Their need to preserve their

language and cultural identity within the larger educational framework gives rise to these needs. Minority groups may look for educational programmes that highlight aspects of their cultural heritage, such as locally relevant literature, history, and language. The history, literature, and language of the majority culture may receive more attention in the mainstream educational system than they would otherwise, which may leave out important minority groups' experiences, languages, and cultural contributions. Thus, educational policies that take these variances into account must be implemented. Ensure that the literature and languages of minority communities are not only preserved but also honoured within the educational system, this may entail making provisions for bilingual or multilingual education. By doing this, they hope to offer a more diverse and inclusive educational experience that meets the needs of all societal groups, advancing social cohesion and a deeper understanding of other cultures.

Autonomous Self-Government System:

The self-government system is another right of the minorities and indigenous communities (Kymlicka & Norman, 2000). This right would empower the communities to make their decision-making apparatus. This right is based on some historical affinities such as indigenous people could claim that in history they were independent of any social contract with the state. Also, the minorities are mistreated by the majority so to safeguard their rights they require a separate mechanism of governance. Furthermore, the self-local governments are a more decentralized form of governance than central and provincial. Similarly, the self-local government would preserve their cultural ethos and political autonomy and a local representative would be able to resolve its issues more amicably (Kymlicka, 1997).

Safeguarding Cultural and Lingual Rights:

The scholars argue in favour of immigrants who are also regarded as minorities in a foreign land. They stressed that the cultural and lingual rights of immigrant minorities must be protected (Kymlicka, 2000). There is an example of Quebec where language laws only allowed the use of the French language in commercial signs which was sheer discrimination against lingual minorities. Due to such laws, minorities are forced to leave their primordial identities that are closely embedded in their culture. Internal rules for members' conduct are enforced by ostracism and ex-communication. Scholars have discussed the conventions of a particular community that are not shaped into constitutional laws but are still practised and implemented on diverse minorities. However, such conventions and internal laws have no cultural, religious or social applicability to minorities and indigenous people (Kymlicka, 1997). To accommodate the legal and traditional distinction between minorities and indigenous people, the incorporation and enforcement of distinctive laws fall under minority rights. A need for various legal frameworks to take into account the unique rights of both indigenous peoples and minorities.

These groups frequently have unique historical, cultural, and legal circumstances that call for particular attention within the larger legal framework. Although both groups may be viewed as minorities in a broader social context, there are important traditional and legal distinctions between them. Indigenous peoples frequently have unique rights regarding self-governance, land rights, and cultural practices that are distinct from those of other minority groups because of their historical presence and special relationship with the land. Frameworks for minority rights need to take these variations into account. They support political and legal frameworks that specifically acknowledge and defend the unique rights of indigenous peoples, taking into account their particular historical and cultural contexts, in addition to safeguarding the rights of minorities more broadly. In order to do this, laws that protect indigenous peoples' languages, customs, land rights, and systems of self-governance must be incorporated and upheld. These laws may differ from those that protect other minorities living in the same state.

Symbolic Recognition of Rights:

This right of representation of minority and indigenous groups is an old practice. This right needs to be preserved. These rights provide the inclusion of minorities in the decision-making apparatus and become the voice of dissent groups (Kymlicka, 2000). The distinctiveness of the minorities and indigenous communities must be maintained through symbolic recognition (Kymlicka & Norman, 2000). The significance of symbolic recognition is essential in recognising and maintaining the unique characteristics of indigenous and minority groups in a broader society. Cultural and religious symbols, flags, national anthem, public holidays and their historical uniqueness must be recognized by the state. Acknowledging these groups' cultural, historical, and social significance conspicuously is known as symbolic recognition. The provision of symbolic recognition, not only affirms these communities' identities and histories but also their place in the greater social fabric. This acknowledgement addresses the significance of cultural validation and respect in addition to legal and political rights. It seeks to preserve the rich diversity that these groups contribute to society at large while promoting a sense of respect and belonging.

Historical Antecedent:

Baluchistan is the largest territorial area in Pakistan with heterogeneous population that is bordered by Iran and Afghanistan (Noraiee, 2020). It constitutes various ethnicities such as Baloch, Pushtoons, Brahui and Hazaras (Muzaffar, Karamat, & Saeed, 2018). rectangle miles of the southern eastern with deserts area and Helmand stream. Baluchistan is a land with natural resources and strategically Baluchistan is vital because of coastal resources as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (Bansal, 2008). The culture of Baluchistan is dominated by primordialism and Baloch Nationalism is constructed on rivalries, fragmentations and personal vendetta (Titus & Swidler, 2000). More broadly these contentions rest on continuing the status quo and building

alliances with a foreign power (Grare, 2013). Since its inception, the political and constitutional history of Pakistan has been tainted by the authoritative tendencies of the central government.

This phenomenon has halted the devolution of power from the upper hierarchy to the lower one. The tussle of power between the two tiers of government in Pakistan has given birth to the Baloch nationalism that evolved from the freedom struggle to secessionist hues and then to the armed rebellion. The tribal nature of Baluchistan province has given birth to ethno-nationalistic tendencies and patron-client inclination (Grare, 2013). The successive governments of Pakistan have also tried to manage the conflict rather than resolve it. The main and dominant actors in Baluchistan are tribes, political parties and government-claimed insurgent organisations (Khan, 2012).

Pakistan has adopted a three-pronged strategy to deal with the issue of Baluchistan (Bansal, 2008). First, through management of information, and psychological warfare; secondly, through political and civil harassment, divide and rule, execution of tribal leaders; and thirdly, through military deployment and cantonments (Wirsing, 2008). The successive civilian and military governments have supported tribal chiefs thus inculcating a sense of isolation among the common Baloch people. This is the reason that Balochs have failed to recognize themselves as rightful citizens of Pakistan. Many instances that happened such as the One Unit plan, the separation of East Bengal based on suppression of Bengali rights, successive military operations, military-bureaucratic oligarchic system, issues of resource distribution, demographic changes, deterioration of law and order, representation in state apparatus, no go areas, and cases of missing persons that accentuated feelings of alienation and estrangement among the Baloch people (Khan, 2009).

These political instabilities become the cause of various insurgencies in Pakistan. In 1948, the first insurgency occurred in Baluchistan followed by other issues that occurred in 1958-59 and 1963-69 (Muzaffar, Karamat, & Saeed, 2018). The first Civilian Chief Martial Law Administrator Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, from 1973-79 ignored the demands of the provincial government of Baluchistan that became the cause of a systemic insurgency (Haq, 2006). The insurgency continued and shaped into a hostile environment when the Baluch nationalist Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti was murdered in 2009 (Haq, 2006). The Government of Pakistan took the charge of Frontier Corps which created more cleavages. Another instance that fueled conflict was the murder of Nawabzada Balach Marri, of the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), in 2007 (Dunne, 2006). In this period there were many incidents of violence ranging from kidnappings, murders, target killings and blasts.

Some summarized analyses of the Baluch period of active insurgencies are discussed below.

When Pakistan came into being the Pakistan military intervened in Baluchistan and gained control of it from the Khan of Kalat. The Khan of Kalat resisted this move and demanded the autonomy of the area from the army's intervention. For this purpose, armed struggle was driven with the help of the National Liberation Group of Baluch (Muzaffar, Khan, & Yaseen, 2021).

In 1950, Prince Abdul Karim rebelled against the military and state forces which led to the armed conflict. To restore peace a reconciliatory agreement was made between state forces and Prince Karim, but the Pakistan army deviated from that initiated a new era of resistance (Ahmad, 2012). Another conflict happened in the era of President Iskander Mirza when he asked General Ayub Khan to forgive Khan of Kalat for the politico-socio progress of Baluchistan. But Ayub Khan was not ready to do any rapprochement and blamed the Baluch people for conspiring against Pakistan under the leadership of Afghan forces (Ul Haq, Khan, & Nuri, 2005). To satisfy his egoistic ambitions General Ayub Khan set up new facilities in Baluchistan in 1958. Under the leadership of Tikka Khan, a new resistance movement started relying heavily upon the weapons smuggled from Afghanistan and Iran (Burki, 2012). In 1973, when Bhutto held the command of the government, he installed his men as Governor and Chef Minister, Ghaus Bukhsh Bazenjo and Ataullah Mengal respectively (Khan, 2011). This imparted more sense of alienation in the people of Baluchistan. Similarly, in the era of General Zia Ul Haq, the norm of absolute authority was exercised (Hussain & Kumar, 2023).

In Pervaiz Musharraf era the Baloch people were dissatisfied with the government's policies because it handled resource extraction, economic progress, and military actions. Development initiatives of the government encountered criticism and scepticism, especially the building of the Baluchistan Package and the Gwadar Port. Many Baloch believed that rather than helping the local people, these programmes were intended to benefit the central government and other outside parties (Alamgir, 2012). Allegations of human rights violations in Baluchistan were made against the administration of Musharraf. The circumstances surrounding Nawab Akbar Bugti's assassination and the subsequent abduction of the Baloch people signalled a shift in the intensity of the region. The circumstances in Baluchistan deteriorated after the death of Nawab Akbar Bugti (Alamgir, 2012). Beginning in 2000, guerrilla warfare involved frequent attacks on armed personnel. The people behind these acts were those who wanted to subvert the power of the government. As the People's Liberation Front made it clear that resistance against the control of Baloch resources would not be tolerated by attacking a police station close to Kohlu, tensions increased (Muzaffar, Khan, & Yaseen, 2021). The creation of the Baloch Liberation Army marked the beginning of a new era despite the ongoing atrocities in Baloch areas. The group declared its resolve to fight against what they considered to be oppressive Punjabi forces and pledged to battle the Frontier Corps (Bukhari, Roofi, & Bukhari, 2015).

President Pervez Musharraf launched the construction of Gwadar in 2002, a significant seaport project in the area. China provided substantial financial and material help for the building of Gwadar, which was intended to strengthen the region's infrastructure (Bansal, 2006). Chinese engineers were assigned the responsibility of accelerating the project during this time. Nonetheless, a concerning event took place in the seaside resort of Gwadar in 2004 where Chinese labourers were attacked (Khan, Azhar, & Muhammad, 2018). Similarly, Extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, and human rights abuses were

reported, which fuelled separatist sentiment and increased agitation. Protests continued to show that the Baloch community was not satisfied with the government's efforts, even though the Baluchistan Package was an attempt by the government to address issues of the Baloch people (Kundi, 2008).

Nawaz Sharif's administration, which persisted from 2013 to 2017, the province of Baluchistan dealt with a wide range of complicated problems through the civilian government and the military launched operations against the unrest and insurgency. Security issues, the region's socioeconomic development, and the Baloch population's fight for autonomy and fundamental rights were all ongoing issues. Responses to the government's strategy of political discourse, infrastructure development, and reconciliation efforts were not entirely positive (Khan, 2022). Some positive developmental changes happened in this era under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC), for example, the Gwadar-Hoshab (M-8) road. However, the Baluchi people perceived this project as a new way of colonialism (Kaur & Malhi, 2023). Many incidents happened in Baluchistan in this respect, such as, Without consulting the provincial government, the federal government unilaterally extended the mining lease contract for the Sui field in 2015, even though Baluchistan has the right to use the gas resources it is not getting its due rights. The province government was not consulted or included in these decisions, so they had no control or influence over these important projects (Kaur & Malhi, 2023).

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), a newcomer, rose to prominence in Pakistan in 2018 on both the national and local levels. Historically, the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the Pakistan People's Party have dominated the political landscape of the nation. With its ascent to power, PTI was perceived as a fresh force in Pakistan's intricate political landscape, signalling a break from the country's established political system. Some saw it as a new wave of refreshing politics, while others saw it as a synthesis of old and new (Hussain et al., 2021). Baluchistan encountered numerous political and socioeconomic difficulties from 2018 to 2022 while the PTI government was in power. The area struggled with demands for more provincial autonomy, security concerns, and infrastructure development (Shafqat, 2022). The region's course during this time was determined by the government's approach to resolving these issues in Baluchistan, which included development projects, efforts to enhance security, and interactions with local stakeholders. Many instable incidents took place in this period of time, such as A van carrying Chinese faculty members connected to the Confucius Institute in Karachi was the target of an attack in April 2022. The attack claimed the lives of three Chinese nationals and their local driver. The attacker was described as an educated female suicide bomber connected to the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA) (Kaur & Malhi, 2023). Both the Chinese government and the Islamabad ruling elite expressed grave concern and strong reactions to this incident. Beijing is already becoming increasingly uneasy about the increased security costs for Chinese nationals working along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) (Kaur & Malhi, 2023).

National Security Policy 2022-2026:

In the National Security Policy document, the policy regarding national cohesion is clearly defined and delineated. The document describes that Pakistan is a country of diverse cultural contours. For cohesive national integration, the country needs to reinforce the discourse of unity in diversity. Otherwise, the ethnic, religious and social differences will hinder the nationalistic narrative thus leading to anarchy, disharmony and chaos.

Moreover, national cohesion and integration are only possible when socio-economic justice is equally distributed among all the segments of society. Furthermore, there is a dire need to overhaul the institutional and governance disparities in all tiers of governance structure. The reconciliatory mechanisms discussed in the document are based on preserving the identity, ensuring unity and stability, and making the public service responsive. The document describes inclusiveness and harmony despite class, creed, ethnicity, sect and gender. Similarly, stresses the need to foster democracy and pluralistic norms. Consequently, improving the public service delivery system through responsiveness, accountability, transparency and e-governance. In the realm of security, the issues of terrorism, sub-nationalist forces, sectarianism and extremism are grave concerns that inhibit national cohesion. For resolving the given issues, the document talks about preserving the law and order situation and the rule of law (NSD, 2022).

Reconciliatory Mechanisms:

First, dialogue and negotiation with the nationalist forces in Baluchistan is the key to resolving the issue and accommodating them in mainstream politics. A major step was taken in past but did not proved very fruitful, for example, after the restoration of democracy in 2008, the then government of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) took initiatives to meet the grievances of Baluchistan, the most important one in this wake was the 'Aghaz-e-Huqooq Baluchistan' package (Hassan, 2020). For reconciliation, the PPP government aimed to settle long-standing disputes and lessen separatist sentiments in Baluchistan. A committee was constituted to formulate all-encompassing recommendations that would tackle the province's persistent political and economic problems. On November 24, 2009, during a joint parliamentary session, this committee formulated a package named Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Baluchistan (the initiation of Baluchistan Rights) (Waseem, 2007). The package was well received by mainstream national political parties, who saw it as a constructive move towards reducing tensions in the volatile province. However, some expressed scepticism regarding its efficacy. Moderate nationalists cautiously clung to their optimism regarding the possible effects of the reform package. However, these centrist political forces conveyed their dissatisfaction, pointing out that the package did not convince anyone or include extremist elements. Regionalist groups that support Pakistan's integrity and unity expressed grave concerns about the actions of the federal government. In Baluchistan, the political parties have restated

their demand that the federating units be honoured as stipulated in the 1940 Lahore Resolution. They argued against the reform package in favour of total provincial autonomy as well as local management of the province's resources (Zia, 2012).

Secondly, there is a dire need for the state forces must recognize the identity and presence of the nationalist forces in Baluchistan. In the hegemonic control approach, it has been stated that in heterogeneous societies the elite segments of the state control and regulate the minority groups for their interests (McGarry & O'Leary, 1994). This is the way to create the element of stabilisation in society. With the help of coercive domination and elite co-option authoritarian and hybrid states control and manage minority groups. This issue is the crisis of identity. The Baloch nationalist forces perceive the federal government of Pakistan as a "Colonist" and "Occupier" (Noraiee, 2020). When the state would recognize their identity the sense of alienation of nationalist forces would decrease. Thus, such forces would move forward to become part of mainstream politics. Inculcating a sense of inclusiveness and belongingness is very important.

Thirdly, the state apparatus must recognize the fact that the rigid social structures of Baluchistan, i.e., the 'Sardary System' cannot be abolished overnight. The governments have tried to abolish the 'Sardary System', for example, in 1976 Zulfikar Ali Bhutto passed the Sardari Abolition Ordinance (Samad, 2011). Such policies resulted in a more conflictual scenario. The people in Baluchistan should not be forced to abandon their cultural practices. Baluchistan needs to go through a social and cultural change. This is only possible when the region becomes politically stable. Their cultural rights and identity must be protected such as their language and literature.

Fourthly, the countries or states that possess natural resources are more prone to conflicts such as civil wars, ethnic cleavages and sectarian rifts (Samad, 2011). Baluchistan is a hub of natural resources this is another reason that it is a conflict-driven region. It is one of the reasons for Baloch antagonism, for example, the gas resources of the Sui area are not used by local people but are supplied to the largest populated province of Pakistan, Punjab (Samad, 2011). The government and state should give due rights to Baluchistan because the people have the first right to use the resources. An ample amount must be allocated resources there for developmental and structural growth.

Furthermore, the government must check the international funding provided by foreign elements and nationalists in Baluchistan. The diaspora and transnational elements penetrate the regions that face ethnic conflicts (Long, Singh, Samad, & Talbot, 2015). The Baloch diaspora that resides in the Middle Eastern countries, especially the Gulf countries actively funds separatist and secessionist movements in Baluchistan. Moreover, the Baloch diaspora living in democratic states such as the UK, USA and Europe are actively involved in raising their voice for a separate Baloch state.

In order to incorporate nationalist elements into Baluchistan's mainstream politics, power devolution is imperative. The Pakistani Constitution gives provinces a great deal of autonomy, but the central government and military establishment in particular are

reluctant to give up power, which has prevented the provinces from fully exercising their autonomy. Local voices have frequently been ignored by this concentration of power, which has inflamed discontent among the Baloch people. Giving province and municipal governments more financial and administrative authority is necessary to empower Baluchistan through true devolution. The Baloch will be able to create and carry out policies that are tailored to their own sociocultural environment with such a change. This is especially crucial in an area where cultural customs and different tribal ties set it apart from other parts of Pakistan. Furthermore, by encouraging a sense of ownership and involvement in politics, decentralization might lessen nationalist emotions. Local communities feel less alienated and are better equipped to make positive contributions to the advancement of the country when they are involved in government. By bridging the divide between nationalist forces and the federal government, this inclusive strategy can promote a more cohesive and peaceful political environment.

Moreover, there is a need to recognise and resolve the ethnic fractionalisation, especially between the Baloch and Pashtun communities through social contract and assimilating policies. In the past, these differences have increased hostilities and impeded the growth of the area. It is crucial to encourage social interaction and assimilation techniques that close the divide between different groups in order to promote peace and stability. More interaction between various groups might lessen prejudice and promote understanding amongst them. The Baloch and Pashtun communities can work together and share knowledge through projects like inclusive educational programs, cooperative community projects, and intercultural discussions. These exchanges contribute to dispelling myths and fostering trust, which paves the way for a community that is more unified. The legislature has a crucial role in formulating legislation that safeguard the distinct identities and cultural legacies of the Pashtun and Baloch populations while simultaneously addressing pressing social challenges. This entails preserving customs, fostering regional languages, and acknowledging and appreciating cultural occasions. By taking these steps, development initiatives in Baluchistan are guaranteed to protect the ethnic landscape's diverse mosaic and not to homogenize culture.

The long-standing use of a divide-and-rule tactic in Baluchistan by Pakistan's military bureaucratic oligarchy has exacerbated ethnic tensions and threatened the stability of the area. This strategy, which is typified by encouraging discord among many ethnic and tribal communities, has proven to be ineffective, intensifying mistrust and igniting insurgencies. It is essential that the military give up this polarizing strategy in order to bring about long-lasting peace and progress. One of the main points of dispute in Baluchistan is the large number of military camps and cantonments. Instead of seeing these installations as security measures, many Baloch people see them as symbols of oppression and outside domination. The significant military presence has frequently resulted in violations of human rights and a feeling of occupation among the local populace, further dividing them from the state. Reversing military installations would be a critical first step in fostering healing and fostering confidence. It may be possible to foster an atmosphere where local government and civilian institutions can thrive by lessening the military's presence and

influence in civilian matters. Alongside this demilitarization, there should be a sincere attempt to hold discussions, listen to the concerns of Baloch leaders and communities, and include them in the decision-making process.

Thus, the people of Baluchistan must be given their rights on the lines provided by Kymlicka & Norman. The above-mentioned reconciliatory mechanisms can be applied effectively to bring the nationalist forces into mainstream politics.

Critique and Conclusion:

The National Security Policy of Pakistan is merely a document of semantics. A well-written policy document is a guide, outlining the norms, regulations, and protocols that must be adhered to in different situations. A strong policy document has a few essential components that work together to make it both effective and easy to use. Simplicity and clarity are the cornerstones of a comprehensive policy document (Apthorpe, 1997). It is imperative that the language employed be lucid, succinct, and easily understood by all parties involved, regardless of their level of experience with the subject. It guarantees that the organization-wide understanding of the policy's instructions and intent is achieved by avoiding superfluous technical jargon and unclear terminology.

Moreover, a format that is ordered and well-structured is crucial. The writing should flow logically so that readers can easily find relevant information and move between sections with ease. Accessibility and understanding are improved by having a well-defined division of sections that include an introduction, purpose, scope, policy statements, procedures, and enforcement provisions. Involving stakeholders is essential when creating or updating policies (Apthorpe, 1997). A strong policy document takes into consideration the opinions of pertinent stakeholders and recognises the value of a variety of viewpoints and needs. This inclusive approach guarantees that the policy covers a broad range of issues and situations while also encouraging a sense of ownership among those who will be impacted by it. A successful policy document also clearly outlines the goals and anticipated results, as well as its scope and purpose. It should outline the policy's application to all parties and the penalties for noncompliance in order to promote an accountable culture. Furthermore, it's important to explicitly state the procedures for regular evaluation, updates, and revisions so that the policy stays applicable and useful in evolving contexts.

The policy must be easily accessible and comprehensible to the people it affects in order to be considered accessible. Widespread understanding and compliance are facilitated by using a multifaceted communication strategy to distribute the policy, holding training sessions, and developing easily accessible platforms or resources (Apthorpe, 1997). Consistency with the values, mission, and other current policies is maintained by a well-written policy document. Maintaining uniformity among policies guarantees coherence and prevents inconsistencies or clashes in the operational structure of the basic theme. All things considered, these characteristics work together to make a policy document more effective by guaranteeing that it accomplishes its

goals and is comprehended and followed by all parties. All these characteristics were lacking in the National Security Policy 2022-2026.

In the context of Baluchistan, there is no clear mechanism given in the document in the realm of national cohesion and internal security that how it would resolve the crisis of nationalist forces in Baluchistan. The Baloch people have underlying grievances related to economic marginalisation, political exclusion, and perceived resource exploitation that the security policy has not adequately addressed. Achieving long-lasting peace may be difficult if these fundamental problems are not resolved. It is not mentioned in the document whether or not the state would use the military to resolve the crisis as a military in the shape of Frontier Corps already deployed in Baluchistan. If military tactics were employed it could increase tensions and alienate local communities. It might be more successful to take a more comprehensive strategy that incorporates political inclusion and socioeconomic development. Various stakeholders, such as local communities, tribal leaders, and political representatives of the moderate Baloch community, may not have been sufficiently involved in the policy-making process, as not mentioned. For any resolution to be sustainable, their representation and input are essential. Human rights protection in conflict-affected areas is not mentioned, particularly when it comes to addressing the issue of missing persons. Human rights violations and the overuse of force are two more things that can exacerbate the situation and inflame local discontent. The policy has not explicitly listed priorities or provided step-by-step solutions for Baluchistan's overall economic development. Dissatisfaction and instability can be exacerbated due to the lack of economic opportunities. The lack of mechanisms for dialogue and reconciliation with separatist movements and dissident groups in the policy may limit the opportunities for a peaceful resolution and the integration of these groups into the mainstream political process.

However, it is a positive move for the government and security apparatus to issue a national security policy document. Pakistan must recognize that it needs implementation of policy pursuits, not just policy written on paper. The seven decades of ongoing Baloch struggle highlight the systemic failure to address the aspirations of the Baloch people. It is an example of how they are left out of important decisions that affect their basic standard of living. This long struggle for independence is a result of their deeply held sense of their unique tribal identity, which they are trying to preserve in the face of a demographic shift brought about by the influx of non-Baloch people into the area.

In the federal state of Pakistan, the emphasis is always given to state-building rather than to nation-building. The province of Baluchistan has remained a source of concern because successive military movements and civilian government mechanisms have suppressed the rights of the Baloch people. The rebellious narrative of Baloch nationalist policies has threatened the nationalistic cohesion of Pakistan. Baloch nationalism that dated back to the colonial era remained intact even after the independence of Pakistan. The government and state always focused on managing the crisis instead of resolving it. Pakistan has documented its

first security policy that almost failed to narrate and describe which policies it would implement to bring nationalist elements into the mainstream political discourse. This paper by applying the framework of Kymlicka & Norman tried to devise reconciliatory mechanisms to resolve the crisis of nationalistic cohesion (Kymlicka & Norman, 2000).

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