



Center for Global & Strategic Studies

How to De-Radicalize a Nation

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The changing dynamics of the Pakistan's social and political arena after the "Roshan Khayal" -(Broad-mind) Pakistan initiative taken by the former President Pervez Musharraf, the nation has evidently found itself alienated on two trails. Previously the popular idea of running the state was inspired by the post-cold war narratives more specifically the Zia ul Haq's brand of religiously coated political system, which

governed the country for more than two decades. That specific brand has trickled down fluently from top to bottom with having more intensity at the grass root level. Even the political leaders were groomed under the same brand of political system alongside having that particular mindset; state affairs were strictly synchronized with the same idea of religiopolitical combination. This created a good portion of the population in the country founding itself on the way to close ended roads. However, the post-cold war situation of the region and global economic warfare have demanded a one hundred and eighty-degree shift in a paradigm to run the state to

compete with the world. The inclusion of the electronic media (the non-state owned) though have made grounds for the change adaptability up to a suitable magnitude, but what is faced now by the state in the form of response to the execution of the killer of the former Governor Punjab, Salman Taseer or



austere narratives in contradiction to the secular arrangement of government can be indeed categorized as retaliation to the imposed change.

Bringing Back the First Reached

Those who touched and met the end first of the same close ended road have become a grim issue for the state to lodge. Their influx back in the new brook towards a broad-

minded or progressive Pakistan have got them in an unadorned shock thus reluctantly they are retaliating. They have never assumed of a Pakistan where a person who killed a governor over having a desire to make amendments to the blasphemy law can be executed with no hesitation. With intentions to make a vision corresponding to the global demands, the state will entail to shape them in a way so that they can be accommodated in the new narrative. Nevertheless, making it look less dramatic can be a delicate task. As a substitute, any cynical event can make them realize of the change being imposed on them; in other words, they might backslide to their first position and gather to oppose sturdily.

Applying the change theory

State works no differently than the organization. In 1951 Kurt Lewin known as the father of modern psychology developed a three-step change model.

In his theory, the social scientist Kurt Lewin views behavior as a vibrant balance of forces which usually works in opposite directions. Those who are

leading the state politically, tend to facilitate change; they will push individuals in the direction they desire for. Preventive forces will do their part and press the individual in opposite direction because they fear the change. Therefore, these effects need analysis, here the Lewin's change model can bring a solution to plan the desired change and provide guidance on it to help shift the balance.



Unfreezing

For making the population who were formerly infused with a specific ideology which is no longer relevant to the globally changing needs, state has to unfreeze the mindsets and introduce certain procedures to be practiced on ground such as:

- Creating motivation and readiness to change through certain steps so to establish a sense of urgency. This may involve highlighting the global demands and the collective failures of the nation.
- Comparing the existing situation of one nation with another and targeting the failures will create a sense of guilt and anxiety. This fear and guilt will naturally demand the recognizing need for change. Here the state will come up with a new policy at hand that can assure their psychological safety.
- Motivate the targeted population by making the ground for a change, shape a trustable relationship with people and create recognition for the modification requirements.
- Active participation is required to recognize issues and to start a process of brainstorming for digging out methods to resolve within a country and encouraging the replacements of old behaviors and attitudes with new behaviors.

Changing

At this stage, the state has to implement the real difference which is deemed. By taking specific actions as in taking more progressive steps such as the recent women

protection bill or the draft law against honor killing passed by national assembly can be excellent examples. This move will involve the cognitive restructuring of the nation and help the people to observe, discuss, express and respond uniquely, based on the recent opinion gained through recognition of a role model aligned with the same progressive thoughts and ideas or leader who practice and advocate change.

- Encouraging the target population, see the problem from a fresh perspective and connect the view of the group with their leaders who have a reputation among the nation and those who advocates change.
- Deconstruction of the prior policies that are of no use today or which have extremist edges.
- Variations in the curriculum while observing the media so that it is not used to preach hatred. Here the forces that drive the state will also need to pursue seminaries reforms regardless of the clergy' s pressure. Moreover, generating more short term wins.

Refreezing

To let the desired changes sustain for the long run, this step needs to take place after the application of evolving over the masses. The chances of the change to maintain for longer and desired periods decreases and the masses might revert to what they have been believing previously if this individual step is not taken. It is the concrete mixing of the fresh morals into the customs and conducts of the masses.

- The reason behind this move is to alleviate the same new equilibrium which came out of the change by keeping balance in both driving forces and warning forces. One action that can be used in the implementation of this step of refreezing is to strengthen new outlines and institutionalize them through mechanisms that can be formal or informal with the same time inclusion of some policies and procedures that will be implemented in the country.
- Letting the leaders integrate the changed behavior or attitude into the proper way of doing things.
- Give a new vision to the nation, re-define former policies to make them feasible to cater the demands of today and tomorrow.

Conclusion

The state-led policy of Islamization for almost one and half decade have however extended its roots deep in every sphere of our society; it will for

sure take another 20 years to eradicate extremist narratives from the society in total, but dangerous interventions with viable policies can bring the destination close.

Education reforms should be the priority so that the upcoming generation can be preserved from the extremist narratives. For the state drivers, it is indeed a lesson

Do you consider the struggle for implementation of Shariah is jihad?

Response	Punjab	NWFP	Sindh	Balochistan	FATA	Islamabad	Gilgit-Baltistan	AJK
Yes	63.0%	70.8%	36.6%	69.7%	65.7%	62.5%	27.5%	59.7%
No	13.4%	9.2%	23.4%	12.4%	14.3%	2.5%	47.1%	15.6%
Don't know	20.8%	16.4%	37.6%	14.0%	20.0%	25.0%	19.6%	23.4%

Source: *Trends and Patterns of Radicalization in Pakistan*, Pak Institute for Peace Studies 2010.

learned. We might have to work with the global powers in coalitions but getting into a designed future before understanding its outcomes can drag us in even more intense security situations. Besides the security situation, it influences the process of a progressive nation building which is damaging the country upon which the radical theories are applied. Keeping in mind the rapidly globalizing world, radicalizing a nation would harm the entire humanity not only one nation.

