

POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF MILITANCY IN KASHMIR

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Armed militancy broke out in Kashmir Valley in 1989. The ongoing conflict of two decades has crippled the economy, eroded the social fabric, strained political institutions and caused anomie at different levels. The extended presence of the army and the security forces, apart from swelling the ranks of the detainees has raised critical questions of human rights and criminal justice system. Large scale migrations have taken place not only from the Valley but also from other areas affected by militancy causing problems of resettlement and rehabilitation of internally displaced communities.

The dynamics of militant politics have gone through different phases too. From a local mass upsurge to a Pan Islamist Jihad to a highly fragmented movement of multiple outfits. The shifting patterns of militancy have lent a complexity to Kashmir problem. Its multiple dimensions have serious political implications at internal, external, regional and sub-regional levels.

The aim of some militant groups is to secede from India and to accede to Pakistan and for others it is complete independence. Of the mainstream parties, the National Conference demands autonomy, PDP self rule and the BJP abrogation of Article 370.

Current political scene in the valley is defined by contrasts where democratic politics operates along politics of separatism and political dialogue along episodes of violence

The present study analyses the various political dimensions of militancy as they have emerged in the course of two decades.

Chapter-I Sets a theoretical framework for understanding ethnicity, nationalism and separatism. It analyses whether the phenomena of ethnic separatism is primordial, instrumental or contextual.

Chapter-II Analyses the causative or eruptive factors of militancy within a historical, democratic and federal context.

Chapter-III Traces the contours of violence in the state, the dynamics of militant movement and consequent violations of human rights.

Chapter-IV Makes an appraisal of initiatives undertaken by the government of India for restoration of democracy in the State and the emerging dynamics of regional and sub-regional identities.

Chapter-V Focuses on the external dimension. Pakistani support to militants, the nuclearization of the subcontinent and evolution of America's South Asian Policy after September 11.

Chapter-VI Scrutinizes the various peace initiatives and emerging political scenario.

Conclusion: The conclusion suggests strategic, political and democratic measures to build peace and stability in the State.