**ASSESSING CULTURAL DISTORTION IN THE WAKE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGIES AND THE GROWING RADICALIZATION IN PAKHTUN SOCIETY**

**ABSTRACT**

This thesis critically evaluates the performance of existing states responses such as Pakistan and United States against terrorism in the *Pakhtun* tribal society. It is reflected that forceful responses of states or excessive use of force against terrorism does not recourse to *Pakhtun* culture. Emphasis on the excessive use of force against terrorism caused damaged to *Pakhtuns* socio-cultural institutions. Resultantly, *Pakhtuns* cultural distortion also created the problem of socio-political order in the tribal belt of Pakistan. It is also revealed that collateral damages led the perception of injustice and suppression which badly affected the performance of Pakistan against terrorism in this region. Collateral damages as a result current counter-terrorism strategies also provoke *Pakhtuns* cultural traits revenge (badal) and resistance against the state forces. Research probes that *Pakhtuns* resistance and their cultural distortion and collateral damage further reinforces the process of radicalization. This study argues that states responses against terrorism in *Pakhtun* tribal society further increased their susceptibilitytowards radicalization. Lastly, the research concludes by offering non-kinetic approach to curb terrorism in the region. It is analyzed that growing radicalization can be reduced to preserve the socio-cultural institution of *Pakhtun* society and resolve the socio-economic and political problems of the region through culturally recourse counter-terrorism strategies.

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