



## **Munawar Ali Mahar:**

Research Scholar PhD IR National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Islamabad, Pakistan.

### **Greater Significance Of Human Security Approach In Policy And Practice In Pakistan: A Case Study Of COVID-19 Pandemic**

#### **Abstract**

Humanity is faced with the existential crisis of an unprecedented nature as the COVID-19 continues to devastate lives and livelihoods across the globe. Arguably, the pre-pandemic world was severely afflicted with numerous human insecurities. However, the pathogenic germ has created new human security problems and exacerbated the exiting human insecurities. In the current context, the biggest takeaway of the unfolding ‘the Great Disruption’, is the universal and dire need for human security -the protection against fear, want and indignity. Rooted in the classical liberal tradition underpinned by its analytical focus on the people, the concept of human security has assumed greater significance for public from America to Afghanistan. Through qualitative analysis based on secondary data, this paper seeks to analyse and underline the seminal significance of human security to be adopted by Pakistan in order to shield public against the non-traditional security threats and preserve state legitimacy challenged by ‘the Great Crisis’. The contagion was a global challenge calling for a global response within the framework of human security approach. The Corona-caused global crisis warrants ‘the Great Reset’ in the policies and priorities of Pakistan required to embrace and instrumentalise the human security paradigm that has emerged as an imperative rather than an option for the country.

**KEYWORDS:** Human Security, COVID-19 Pandemic, Classical Liberalism, Great Disruption, Great Reset, Policy Imperative

#### **Introduction**

A microscopic germ caused what can aptly be termed as ‘The Great Disruption’ across the globe. Spreading to 188 countries, the COVID-19 struck swiftly and comprehensively. From public health to the global economy and from religious rituals to social norms, almost every sphere of human life was affected by it. Unsurprisingly, the annals of human history are illustrative of humanity's relentless struggle against the pathogenic challenges. More aptly, humanity has been locked into the evolutionary arms race against pathogenic microbes. The Corona pandemic is a glaring case in the point. Given its all-encompassing effects at the individual, national and global levels, the pathogenic virus turned out to be disruptive in both metaphorical and literal terms. Consequently, the globalized world faced global repercussions as interconnectedness and interdependence have vulnerabilities as well. The global crises and calamities may not necessarily and radically alter the course of history. Nevertheless, depending on the choice humanity makes during and after the crisis, such watershed moments in the epic history of human civilization act as a veritable catalyst in accelerating the pace of history.

Traditionally, Pakistan has been greatly concerned with anthropogenic military threats. Conversely, it was the absence of human security exposed and emphatically highlighted the most by the COVID-19. As abundantly evidenced by the overwhelmed public health system in the

---

country, the global health crisis exposed the lack of life-saving preparedness against the deadly non-military challenge, at national and international levels. The hollowness of the state-centric security paradigm stood manifested by the tragic fact that the US, the most powerful state on the planet, emerged as one of the worst-hit in terms of human loss from the contagion that could not be fought off with thermo nukes or laser guns. Awash with modern muskets, nukes and military doctrines, states are better armed to fight off a military threat than combating the non-military threat posed by a novel pathogen. What was needed the most were ventilators, masks, health personnel, ambulances, hospitals and smart lock down plans that were in short supply even in the rich and advanced states notably America and Britain. In other words, the world-wide loss of human life, lopsidedness of state-centric security paradigm, the economic disruption, food insecurity, economic disparity, job losses and inadequacies of the public health sector, sounded a clarion call for the prioritization of human security as the top global agenda to counter the multiplying number of such non-anthropogenic and non-traditional threats that required a big shift in analytical approach and operational strategies in Pakistan. If history is any guide, the contagion was neither the first nor the last. Moreover, the intensifying climate change has potential not only to add to the existing stockpile of human security problems but also to compound those threats in the unforeseen ways. Ominously, such pandemics and epidemics are projected to befall humankind with greater frequency and ferocity as the global temperatures continue to soar due to anthropogenic climate change resulting in erratic weather patterns, degradation of the biosphere and unnatural changes in the chemistry of hydrosphere. The pandemic tested the limits of Pakistani state's capacity and sovereignty to maintain its political justification embedded in what is called the social contract. Therefore, human security has now become a security imperative for Pakistan and other states rather than any optional policy choice to cope with rapidly growing non-traditional challenges exemplified by the deadly virus.

### **Theoretical Perspective**

Pertinently, it is important to put the argument in its proper conceptual perspective needed for profound insight into the current situation. The human security concept draws its philosophical and theoretical inspiration from the classical liberal tradition that puts premium on the primacy of the individual whose sovereignty and security lie at the heart of the aforementioned rational compromise i.e., Social Contract. As a matter of fact, Classical liberalism is a 'bottom-up' approach wherein international relations are an extension of the domestic dynamics and drivers (Van De Haar, 2009, p. 16). Unlike the realist paradigm, classical liberalism is driven by its human-centric cardinal principles notably individualism, freedom, toleration, common human values, rule of law, responsive and limited government. The individual is the referent object whose values are to be protected the state. The political doctrine is identified with John Locke, Adam Smith, Mill Jeremy and Friedrich Hayek. All of them have emphasized the pivotal position of the individual in a state that derives its very sovereign legitimacy from people whose internal security and protection from external threats, is the core obligation of the commonwealth. They present state as the arbiter and the means to provide the conducive environment for socioeconomic and political pursuits by the individuals. In other words, state is the means rather than an end in itself. It is the individual that is of the ultimate value. Thus, the classical liberals consider the individual as the most important unit of analysis with regard to the equation between state and citizens. John Locke in his seminal work 'Second Treatise of Government' argues that the power and sovereignty of government flows from public not the other way round. In the defense of the rights of the people, he went on to assert that it

---

was lawful for the public to resist and dissolve the government if it acted in the violation of the social contract (Locke & Shapiro, 2018, p. 197). In sum, the individual rights enjoy precedence over the commonwealth created by the consent of the people. In addition to Locke, Jeremy Bentham, another English philosopher of the Enlightenment era, advocated the individual and collective welfare through his 'Principle of Utility'. According to Bentham, the duo of pleasure and pain act as two sovereigns that guide human acts. He further elucidated as follows:

By utility is meant that property in any object, whereby it tends to produce benefit, advantage, pleasure, good, or happiness, (all this in the present case comes to the same thing) or (what comes again to the same thing) to prevent the happening of mischief, pain, evil, or unhappiness to the party whose interest is considered: if that party be the community in general, then the happiness of the community: if a particular individual, then the happiness of that individual (Bentham, 2021, p. 11).

In other words, Utilitarianism determines moral worth or value of human actions by their consequences for human wellbeing that is the ultimate objective to be pursued by the individual, community, and state. Like other classical liberals, the individual lies at the heart of his philosophy of utilitarianism wherein the actions of a legislator are supposed to be guided by the utilitarian approach. As the individual is the fundamental unit of a community, the legislation ought to lead to individual happiness and security that is the sole end of a government (Schofield, 2006, p. 34). Furthermore, he maintains that the happiness of community is the sum total of individual welfare. Thus, the governing agent's policy or actions ought to cause the greatest happiness of the greatest number. John Stuart Mill, Bentham's iconic pupil further expanded the philosophical horizon of classical liberal approach by his landmark work *On Liberty*. Importantly, Bentham focused his Utility Principle on individual utilities whereas Mill has applied the approach to government whose actions have to promote human well-being and safety while protecting individual liberty. According to Mill, the best way for government was to ensure pleasure by the way of allowing people to act and think freely as long as no pain is caused to others (Mill, 1998, p. 47). Moreover, he accords immense importance to individuality that has to be enhanced by giving freedom of action and speech to individuals. Thus, there is consensus among the thinkers that state is bound to ensure overall security of public.

### **Human Security in Policy and Practice**

The disintegration of the USSR brought the curtain down on the cold war. The end of the cold war created a conducive environment for intellectual growth and institutional development of human security featuring more prominently on the international agenda. The fall of a superpower with the largest nuclear arsenal, under the burden of its socio-political and economic challenges, discredited the traditional security paradigm that failed to protect a superpower's territorial integrity. The non-military threats from within the state began to gain greater ground in the world free from ever-looming threat of nuclear Armageddon after the disappearance of bipolarity. Unlike interstate conflict during the cold war, it was the intrastate conflict that created new non-traditional threats to state integrity and sovereignty. Supported by the theoretical stimulation from the world-renowned economists and thinkers notably Dr. Mahbub Ul Haq and Amartya Sen, the phrase human security began to figure prominently and frequently in global discourse. Both the leading scholars called for a conceptual and operational shift in the traditional security approach. According to them, the perennial problems such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, injustice, environmental degradation, human rights abuse and ethnic conflict are the most serious issues to be tackled by the post-cold war global community. To deal with these global issues, the world needs to expand and humanize the security approach, they

---

maintained. Dr Mahbub Ul Haq went on to give concrete form to the concept. He argued that the new dynamics of 21<sup>st</sup> century necessitated fundamental change in our approach to security that had to encompass the security of individuals, not just of nations through sustainable development rather than arms (Haq, 1998, p. 1). According to Haq, world has entered a new era characterized by intrastate conflict rather than interstate conflict that has witnessed incremental decline. For instance, out of 82 conflicts in the last decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century, 79 were intrastate with 90% of the casualties of civilians, not soldiers (Haq, 1998, p. 1). Same holds hold true for the 2st century as reflected by myriad intrastate hotspots dotting the globe.

Later, Haq's radical ideas went global under the auspices of the UN that has played an instrumental role in the internationalization, institutionalization, instrumentalization and operationalization of the human security approach. To that effect, the seminal United Nations Human Development Report 1994 proved to be a historic initiative that brought the critical conceptual shift in the approach to security. For the first time, the report framed the widely agreed upon definition and elaboration of the humanized security concept whose analytical and operational focus is people rather than state. According to the UNHDR 1994, "human security is a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode in violence, a dissident who was not silenced. Human security is not a concern with weapons-it is a concern with human life and dignity." It further states, " It means, first, safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease, and repression. And second, it means protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life-whether in homes, in jobs or in communities" (UNHDR, 1994, p. 22) .

In the light of the above elaboration by the UNHDR 1994, human security is 'freedom from want, fear and indignity'. Furthermore, under Amartya Sen and Sadako Ogata, the Commission on Human Security was created in 2001. With publication of Human Security Now 2003 report, the Sen-Ogatta Commission further enriched the conceptual framework. The report expanded the spectrum of actors involved and reaffirmed "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear" as fundamentals of human security underpinned by social, political, economic, cultural environmental and military mechanisms. Thus, the post-cold war period witnessed a considerable departure from traditional security to human security that began to gain more traction in policy and practice at the national and international levels. For instance, Japan, Canada and EU incorporated human security approach in their respective foreign policies and practices. Also, the adoption of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their more comprehensive and upgraded version in form of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are reflective of the global efforts to address human security issues in a practical and collective manner.

Despite the post-cold war global efforts at broadening the conceptual horizon of security, the idea of human security remained overshadowed by the traditional focus on state security that received a fresh boost with the start of the US-led war on terror triggered by the 9/11 terror attacks on the US soil. Pakistan and global community is in the process of learning about the urgency and significance of human security the hard way as the pandemic caused ' The Great Disruption' that, in turn, exacerbated the existing human insecurities ranging from employment to public health systems needed to protect public health and shield people against economic ravages. Thus, the Great Crisis demanded the Great Reset in the skewed approach towards security by embracing human security to be prioritized by Pakistan.

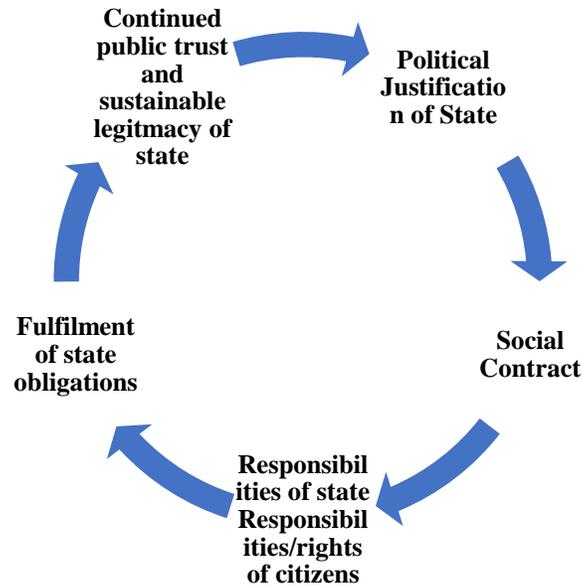
SARS-CoV-2 is a newly discovered virus type belonging to the family of Corona viruses such as Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

---

(SARS) (World Health Organization: WHO, 2022). Named as COVID-19, the novel virus causes an infectious disease that attacks human respiratory system and may prove to be deadly for the infected person. It rapidly mutated from an epidemic to a pandemic by breaking out of China in shorter span of time. On 31 Dec 2019, Municipal Health Commission detected some cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, Hubei Province of China. Eventually, the respiratory illness was named as a novel corona virus (COVID-19) by the World Health Organization on 11 February 2020 (Hale, 2023). Outside China, the first case of COVID-19 was reported by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Thailand on 13 January 2020 (WHO, 2020). Considering its severity and spread, WHO raised the level of global health emergency by declaring COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. As far as the origin of the virus is concerned, some epidemiologists suggest that the novel corona is a “zoonotic” infection-crossing from animals to humans as some animals notably pangolins carry viruses with similar properties to COVID-19. The zoonotic origin theory of the scientist is also endorsed by the WHO leading the global response to the pandemic. Regardless of its origin and the global scramble for vaccine development, there is no longer any question mark over the deadliness and unrelenting proliferation of the contagion. It is not that there was not any warning of how a public health crisis could be detrimental to any state and why the country like Pakistan needs to prioritize human security. Dennis Pirages was the first political scientist who drew attention to how infectious disease posed a direct threat to human security:

Infectious diseases are potentially the largest threat to human security lurking in the post-Cold War world. Emerging from the Cold War era, it is understandably difficult to reprogram security thinking to take account of non-military threats. But a new focus that included micro security issues could lead to interesting cost-benefit thinking. In the short term, policymakers need to understand the potential seriousness of the problem and reallocate resources accordingly (Price-Smith, 2009, p. 189).

However, such clarion calls from renowned experts had little effect on the policy planners whose narrow conceptual and operational focus kept human security on the back burner to the detriment of public interest in Pakistan. Of all, the need for prioritization of human security by the country has emerged as the most critical take-away from the all-encompassing global crisis caused by corona virus. The much-needed reorientation of the security agenda is critical not only to the public health but also to the health and survival of Pakistani state itself as a legitimate and robust entity committed to welfare of its people. Pertinently to point out, a modern state system is underpinned by a rational relationship between state and its citizen. As illustrated by the State Response and Legitimacy Cycle devised by the authors, the great concord called Social Contract binds Pakistani state to ensure protection of its inhabitants not only from the external military threats but also from nonmilitary threats like epidemic, natural disaster and myriad social insecurities of endogenous or exogenous origin.



The sustainability of the understanding between Pakistani state and citizenry depends on the state capacity and institutional will to uphold its end of the contract in exchange for acceptance of state sovereignty and payment of taxes. In sum, Pakistani state's legitimacy is directly proportional to the state responsiveness in crisis times. The contagion-caused socio-political and economic chaos and disruption came as a serious challenge to the country found infected with flawed policy focus and operational incapacities exposed by the pandemic. States around the world struggled to effectively respond to the unfolding non-military threat that states were caught unprepared for despite clear warnings of the concerned scientists in their research studies foretelling such pandemics. The pandemic laid bare the prevalence of the pandemic of human insecurity due to the preponderance of narrow notion of national security in Pakistan. However, the real question concerns with the incorporation of human security approach in the scheme of traditional security paradigm whose narrow theoretical and operational focus is unhelpful in dealing with the neo-wars characterized by the non-military threats like corona pandemic in the country in the future. Pakistan's narrow notion of security has been challenged by many the political scientists and security experts. For instance, Richard Ullman attempts to expand the narrow the contours of security. He argued, 'defining national security in purely military terms conveys a profoundly false image of reality [and] causes states to concentrate on military threats and to ignore other and more harmful dangers' (Price-Smith, 2009, p. 196). Crises and calamities such as war or earthquake always put state capacity and responsiveness to sever test. Unlike any other threat, the challenges engendered by pandemic, were unprecedented in scale and scope for the country to deal with. The viral challenge put an unprecedented strain on Pakistani state's capacity, responsibility and legitimacy due to lockdown, economic disruption, loss of livelihood, inadequate health infrastructure, and internal security situation. Pakistan and other states faced tricky dilemma while coping with this type of non-traditional threat in effective and efficient manner. Initially, lockdown was only effective way to contain the spread, but longer lockdowns led to suspension of economic activities causing lay-offs and rapid income contraction in the country. The loss of livelihood threatens state writ as poor states like Pakistan and the likes, cannot insulate their population from economic vulnerabilities with direct state support in form of cash or kind. In addition, states have to adopt stricter measures to enforce lockdowns leading to curtailment of civil liberties. In turn, the unavoidable suspension of

some of fundamental rights creates public discontent with potential to degenerate into violent backlash with severe consequences for internal stability and cohesion. Under the circumstances, state capacity is overstretched with added responsibility and greater need to respond to public concerns. In other words, Pakistan has not only to protect its citizens from such non-kinetic and non-military threat but also has to protect itself from disaffected citizenry expecting state institutions to come to their rescue and relief. Under the scenario, only states with humanized security lens and policies are better prepared to mitigate public misery and safeguard state sovereignty under enormous pressure from within.

Tellingly, the COVID-19’s debilitating impacts on all walks of life in Pakistan, palpably demonstrated that states around were unprepared for managing pandemics and other such non-traditional threats emerging from within or without sovereign bounders. Amid the crisis and chaos, the provision of health, economic, social and personal security to citizens became a challenge of colossal proportion even in the developed states because the virus was not only a threat itself but also a threat multiplier compounding the existing human security threats. Looking at global defence expenditure, the states appeared better prepared to respond to an alien attack than countering the pathogenic onslaught. The figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute show that global military expenditure surged to \$1.917 trillion in 2019 (SIPRI, 2020). The WHO puts the global health spending at around US\$ 7.8 trillion (Global Spending on Health, 2021, p. 5). As shown in the table below, from advanced states like America and Spain to developing states such as Pakistan and India, human security concerns like poverty, unemployment, health, social inequality, emerged as the most important global issues during the ‘Great Lockdown’.

**Top Global Concerns**

	<b>Covid-19</b>
	<b>Unemployment</b>
	<b>Poverty and Social Security</b>
	<b>Healthcare</b>
	<b>Financial/Political Corruption</b>

With global economic chain disrupted due to travel restrictions and lockdowns, global economy came to near standstill. The World Bank forecast foresaw 5.2 percent decline in global GDP across the world including Pakistan in 2020 (World Bank Group, 2022). According to the International Labour Organization’s projections, 25 million jobs were found at risk of being lost with grave long-term and cumulative effects on human security in the countries like Pakistan. (International Labour Organization, 2020). The economic contraction hit the poor harder as poverty multiplies human insecurities in short and long terms. Worse still, economic contraction plunged half a billion people into extreme poverty (Oxfam International, 2020). Let alone poor nations like Pakistan, America, the world’s largest economy had to grapple with the greatest unemployment rates since the Great Depression.

---

The preoccupation with national security gradually transformed Pakistan into the quintessential security state inherently oriented to prioritize state-centric security at the cost of human security needs of its people. The post-Independence trajectory of the country is tangibly suggestive of the clear and disastrous deviation from the Pre-Independence ideal of peace, plenty and dignity for the people as envisioned by its founding fathers.

As mentioned earlier, the last decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed a significant shift in global approach to security that conceded a space to human security notion. When the global community was humanizing the security, Pakistan went on to further reinforce narrow vision of national security with grave implications for human security approach. In fact, Pakistan and India have been embroiled into the costly hot and cold wars since their independence. The unrelenting confrontation has locked them into expensive conventional and non-conventional arms race that continues to sap their meager resource critical for socio-economic development of the millions of the Indians and the Pakistanis. Thus, this statist security paradigm has created a structural barrier in the way of much-needed seminal shift to human security in Pakistan. Pertinently, Pakistan presented a classic case of a state obsessed with traditional security at cost of human security brought to fore by the pandemic. The state with 6<sup>th</sup> largest nuclear arsenal, struggled to protect its citizens from the viral infection and the socioeconomic insecurities exponentially multiplied by the public health crisis (The Arms Control Association, 2020). In Pakistan, the underpaid and overworked health personnel were forced to use garbage bags as a protective gear, public hospitals are unable to accommodate corona patients due to limited capacity, ventilators and masks were in short supply with reported cases of black-marketing of sanitizers and masks. The country spent only 2.8 percent GDP on health sector with six hospital beds, 9.8 doctors and five nurses and for every 10,000 people (The News International, 2020). On the whole, the situation was illustrative of the serious neglect of public health sector that constitutes a core component of human security conspicuous by its absence in the country. Narrow conceptual and operational security focus of Pakistan continues to keep human security on the back burner at the cost of their performance legitimacy underpinned by public wellbeing. The net result of the approach is the abysmal human security conditions and state incapacity to protect public from non-military problems compounded by the contagion. The state system was under immense pressure to safeguard public from growing human insecurities due to the corona pandemic. The performance legitimacy of the state stood challenged amid the pandemic. For Pakistan, the pandemic stood as a phenomenal indicator of the fact that people are the fulcrum of state power that cannot be sustained without due regard for human security. The COVID-19 exposed and exacerbated the infrastructural weaknesses of Pakistan to shield respective citizenry from growing human insecurities. The corona-caused economic disruption multiplied and aggravated the risks to human security of millions of the Pakistanis abandoned to multidimensional poverty as indicated by the UNDP human development report 2020. Since the pandemic eruption, the long-standing human insecurities ranging from public health threat to economic insecurity were felt more acutely and widely in the country. The decades of single-minded and myopic focus on state-oriented security left the country unprepared to protect their masses from the ravages of the pandemic like COVID-19. Furthermore, from Global Hunger Index to Human Development Index, the country featured abysmally low on all the human security-related indicators.

The developed countries faced their onset of serious old and newly born human security challenges. The ethnic minorities in Europe and North were found to be more vulnerable to death from COVID-19 due to socioeconomic disparities rampant across the world. The US was rocked

---

by anti-racism protest demanding freedom from indignity -a cardinal pillar of human security. The health crisis cracked opened racial fault lines as the people of color are more vulnerable to the virus due to ethnic health disparities, by extension thinner human security cover for the black population. Also, the viral disease gendered human insecurities as evidenced by the millions of undernourished Indian women faced higher risk of contracting the COVID-19 infection. Apart from throwing up new human vulnerabilities, it brought the pre-corona inadequacies, fault lines and human security issues like poverty, social injustice, economic disparities, racial discrimination, digital divide, unemployment, bad governance, human rights violation, hunger, poor health infrastructures into sharp focus. To put it differently, the pandemic superimposed on the pre-pandemic human security related problems overshadowed by Pakistan's preoccupation with traditional security issues.

Arguably, the viral pandemic badly exposed and compounded pandemic of human insecurity that devastated lives and livelihoods due to inadequate health and economic security in Pakistan. The COVID-19 was much more than a health emergency. As reflected by the aforementioned facts and figures, it was a multidimensional human security crisis posing unprecedented threat to state legitimacy as an unchallenged sovereign over the citizens in a defined territory. In their self-interest, states will have to elevate human security to the top of agenda in order to maintain legitimacy as a responsive and reliable sovereign in the anarchic international system. To that effect, provision of human security during and after the pandemic, is key to retain public confidence in the social contract amid such non-military threats threatening to unravel states from within as traditional security may be effective against external aggression but internal human insecurities. Undoubtedly, what can shield Pakistan against internal challenges to territorial integrity, is the human security approach in policy and practice. In that regard, radical review of security approach, focus on human development, ensuring fundamental human rights, improving the health of public health sector, enhanced global governance and cooperation will go a long way in addressing the growing non-military vulnerabilities of the people in Pakistan.

### **Conclusion**

Especially in Pakistan, the notion of human security has reappeared as a critical conceptual lens to view human vulnerabilities exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic. The paradigm seeks to expand the narrow scope security beyond state security and military means. The pandemic emphatically called for personal, political, social, economic community, food, health, water, and environmental security historically subordinated to the dynamics and drivers of state security in the country. The Government around the world and in the country came under immense pressure to safeguard their people from the socio-economic turbulence and health threats. Importantly, the non-military nature of the challenges faced by Pakistan, requires multidisciplinary and multi-sectorial approach involving public, intelligentsia, policy makers and law-enforcement agencies as the human security threats are complex and interlinked in nature. Furthermore, the country needs to make all out efforts for provision of human security umbrella by creating conditions critical to freedom from fear, want and indignity within their borders. Beyond security of its borders, Pakistan ought to adopt a humanised foreign policy because transnational human security problems like pandemic can only be tackled through increased cooperation and enhanced global governance. The cost of a divided and disoriented country in crisis times is staggeringly greater in terms of human and monetary losses as evidenced by the COVID-19. Undoubtedly, the corona virus pandemic and the attendant effects confronted the country and the world with the unprecedented challenge in the 21st century. However, great

---

opportunities are also engendered by great crisis that ought to lead to radical review and reorientation of humanity's policies and practices for better tomorrow. In conclusion, Pakistani policy planners have to adapt and realize that citizens are the most important resource to be protected from the non-military threats as humans and their health is the fulcrum of all state power that cannot be sustained without due regard for the human security needs of the people in the country. Needless to mention that people existed before the emergence of state system so public is an indispensable constituent of state, giving objective form to otherwise, an abstract concept of state. The consequences are grave for the country if it failed to adapt to the altered realities by embracing human security paradigm in its national policy and practice. Human security is no longer one of the many choices available to the country. It is the unavoidable and rational imperative to save Pakistani state from being discredited and delegitimized in the public view. Therefore, the Pakistani policy planners need to take the pandemic as the warning shot from Mother Nature. It may turn out to be the proverbial tip of the iceberg because such pandemics and epidemics are projected to break out with greater frequency and intensity as the unfolding climatic changes provides fertile ground to such viral invaders.

### References

- Bentham, J. (2021). *An introduction to the principles of morals and legislation*. Good Press.
- Global military expenditure sees largest annual increase in a decade—says SIPRI—reaching \$1917 billion in 2019. (2020, April 27). SIPRI. <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2020/global-military-expenditure-sees-largest-annual-increase-decade-says-sipri-reaching-1917-billion>
- Global spending on health: A world in transition. (2021). World Health Organization.
- Hale, E. (2023, March 11). Three years later, what we know: How did COVID start? Al Jazeera. <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/3/11/three-years-later-what-we-know-how-did-covid-19-start>
- International Labour Organization. (2020, March 18). Almost 25 million jobs could be lost worldwide as a result of COVID-19. International Labour Organization. [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_738742/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_738742/lang--en/index.htm)
- Kaldor, M. (2013). *Human security*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Locke, J., & Shapiro, I. (2018). *Two treatises of government and a letter concerning toleration*. <https://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA67696459>
- Mill, J. S. (1998). *On Liberty and other essays*. Oxford University Press, USA.
- Novel coronavirus – Thailand (ex-China). (2020, January 14). World Health Organization. Retrieved March 12, 2023, from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2020-DON234>
- Oxfam International. (2020, May 21). Half a billion people could be pushed into poverty by coronavirus. Oxfam International. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/half-billion-people-could-be-pushed-poverty-coronavirus-warns-oxfam>
- Price-Smith, A. T. (2009). *Contagion and chaos: Disease, ecology, and national security in the era of globalization*. MIT Press.
- Programme, U. N. D. (1994). *Human Development Report 1994*. Human Development Report.
- Schofield, P. (2006). *Utility and democracy: The political thought of Jeremy Bentham*. OUP Oxford.
- The Arms Control Association. (n.d.). *Nuclear weapons: Who has what at a glance*. Arms Control Association. <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat>

---

The News International. (2020, May 6). Covid disparities. The News International. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/654523-covid-disparities>

Van De Haar, E. (2009). Classical liberalism and international relations theory: Hume, Smith, Mises, and Hayek. <https://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BB00341148>

World Bank Group. (2022, January 14). COVID-19 to plunge global economy into worst recession since World War II. World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/06/08/covid-19-to-plunge-global-economy-into-worst-recession-since-world-war-ii>

World Health Organization. (2022, August 5). Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). World Health Organization. [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/middle-east-respiratory-syndrome-coronavirus-\(mers-cov\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/middle-east-respiratory-syndrome-coronavirus-(mers-cov))

World Health Organization. (2020, January 14). Novel coronavirus – Thailand (ex-China). World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/14-january-2020-novel-coronavirus-thailand/en/>