

National Integration: Challenges and Options for Pakistan

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Abstract

National integration solidifies the foundation of nationhood, which is crucial for national security against internal and external challenges. The study argues that there is a thin line between centripetal and centrifugal forces, which stimulates unfavorable environment having specific characteristic and features. Therefore, the multiplicity of languages, races, ethnicities, and sects are being influenced from that particular environment, which may serve both as ingredients of national integration and disintegration. Based on secondary review of academic sources, this study discusses that the issues such as leadership dilemma, bad governance, socio-economic disparity, ethno-cultural polarization, sub-nationalist politics, fragile national unity under federalism, extremism, national identity crisis and modernity confusion are the main challenges to Pakistan's efforts of national integration. It also suggests ways and means to address the issues of national integration.

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