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Pakistani State's Writ is Challenged

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Pakistani State's Writ is Challenged

The State of Pakistan has long been loosing its writ over its landmass.

Here's the record: First: In 1947, we accepted that 27,220 square kilometers of FATA-Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Mohamand, North Waziristan, Orakzai, South Waziristan plus FR Peshawar, FR Kohat, FR Tank, FR Bannu, FR Lakki and FR Dera Ismail Khan shall continue to be governed under the Frontier Crimes Regulation of 1901. Second: In 1970, Federally Administered Northern Areas (FANA), a total of 72,496 square kilometers-that includes Skardu, Ghanche, Gilgit, Ghizer Diamer, Astore and Hunza-was created as a separate administrative unit. The State of Pakistan has also been encouraging parallel judicial infrastructures.

Here's the record.

First: In 1997, Ehtesab Act was passed by the Nawaz Sharif government that gave birth to Ehtesab Courts. Second: In 1997, the Anti-Terrorism Act gave birth to Anti-Terrorism Courts.

For the past 62 years we have failed to integrate FATA into the rest of Pakistan. For the past 39 years we have failed to integrate FANA into the rest of Pakistan. That's 99,716 square kilometers, nearly 13 percent of our total landmass, outside the boundaries of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The results of our follies are for the world to see.

On 13 April 2009, President Asif Ali Zardari, the 11th president of Pakistan, signed Nizam-e-Adl Regulation 2009 donating an additional 5,337 square kilometers of Pakistan to Tehreek-e-Nafaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi (TNSM). TNSM has already laid its claim to 14,850 square kilometers of Chitral and 5,280 square kilometers of Dir. That would mean 16 percent of our landmass. Where would it all stop?

FATA is beyond Pakistan *de facto*. Swat is now beyond Pakistan *de jure*. Pakistan has no writ in most of Balochistan. And, that's a total of 452,243 square kilometers, or 58 percent of Pakistan, beyond Pakistan's writ.

What would life be post-Nizam-e-Adl? According to Amnesty International, Nizam-e-Adl means "legitimizing human rights abuses" in the Swat Valley.

According to McClatchy Company, that publishes 43 different daily newspapers in the U.S., "A growing number of U.S. intelligence, defense and diplomatic officials have concluded that there's little hope of preventing nuclear-armed Pakistan from disintegrating into fiefdoms controlled by Islamist warlords and terrorists, posing a greater threat to the U.S. than Afghanistan's terrorist haven did before 9/11."