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Coronavirus Insights and Analysis: At a Glance

The Coronavirus pandemic poses unprecedented challenges as uncertainty about its trajectory has left experts in the dark. The virus is driving a macroeconomic meltdown around the world with unemployment at a record high. As the situation is evolving, IPRI Scholars have been examining key developments in the global spread of COVID-19 and analysing its impact on people and society. We are learning how governments and citizens are finding new ways to adapt and proactively manage the crisis at hand. Here is an overview of IPRI's latest insights on the issue:



DEFENCE & SECURITY

Rethinking National Security Post-Pandemic by **Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham bin Saddique**, President IPRI

Although Pakistan was envisioned to be a welfare state, geopolitical and regional dynamics necessitated prioritization of national security over human security. The attainment of nuclear deterrence ushered in strategic balance, which ensured that war with India remained at bay. The COVID-19 situation thrust upon us divinely, is yet another defining moment in our history that compels policymakers to chalk up a national strategy, leveraging the strengths of all the elements of the national power potential in a post-pandemic world of new possibilities. Pakistan's national security plan must acknowledge that, firstly, national security must include human security. Secondly, the outcome of future wars depends on overall power, not military might. Thirdly, a "Cross Domain deterrence strategy" must be devised.

The Nation, 28 April 2020

Pieces of Broken Humanity: Bombs vs. Breath by **Gulshan Bibi**, Assistant Research Officer

The COVID-19 outbreak underscores the need to put arms race aside, as both richer and poorer nations are suffering.

Nuclear armed countries that spend excessively on arms build-up, are now struggling to arrange basic medical equipment. This arms build-up continues undeterred by virus fears, diverting funds away from much-needed investments in medical equipment.

The Reader's Review, 3 April 2020

Conflict Resolution is the Key to Deal with COVID-19 in War-Torn Regions by **Hamzah Rifaat Hussain**, Assistant Research Officer

Cessation of hostilities is imperative, as escalation of longstanding conflicts pose as a hindrance in the global fight against COVID-19 pandemic. Conflict zones in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa are home to vulnerable populations, with poverty, dilapidated health infrastructures and limited financial resources rendering them incapable of dealing with the pandemic. Escalation of violence will leave the vulnerable populations at a heightened risk. Thus, ceasefires, across all regions and parties to the conflict, are a necessity for curbing the pandemic.

China Global Television Network (CGTN), 3 April 2020

COVID-19 Security Threat: Trillions Spent on Security but No Mechanism to Fight COVID-19 by **Zeeshan Javed**, Junior Consultant

Threats to national security can manifest in both tangible and intangible ways. We are less familiar with intangible

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security threats, which have no defined origin or cause, are transnational in nature, impact citizens directly and pose as serious a risk as traditional security threats. These necessitate multilateral and international cooperation. Taking cognizance of the emerging threat to national security, it is imperative to develop a comprehensive understanding of non-traditional security threats, such as COVID-19, at a global level.

Global Village Space, 1 April 2020



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Nightmare of Globalization: Will Corona Reverse Globalization? by **Waleed Yawer**, Assistant Research Officer

Trade and tourism, the fundamentals of globalization, are threatened by the ease of transmission, and not the potency, of Coronavirus. The crisis is far beyond the economic perils banks were insulating themselves from. A chain of uncertain and uncoordinated reactions, fuelled by ambiguity and market mania ensue, including disruptions to the stock market, slashing of interest rates, blocking of human and service mobility, all leading to curtailment of global revenue streams. A fiscal and socio-political consensus-driven and structured strategy must be devised to orchestrate a response to the uncertainty that arises from the pandemic, especially targeted at vulnerable regions.

Global Village Space, 1 April 2020

Can't Keep Politics out of the Pandemic? by **Hannan Hussain**, Assistant Research Officer

Washington's smear campaign against Beijing's COVID-19 efforts remains active amid Trump administration's own governance crisis which has contributed to a rapid escalation in infections. To discredit China's globally acclaimed containment efforts, it accuses Beijing, without evidence, of under-reporting casualties. Unlike the US, China has integrated asymptomatic cases into national count to boost transparency. By directing criticism towards Beijing, Washington is only masking its governance gaps.

China Global Television Network (CGTN), 3 April 2020

China Takes over the World Leadership Role Abandoned by US by **Maheen Ahmed**, Assistant Research Officer

As the waning global leadership of the US is juxtaposed with that of rising powers such as China, the question arises as to who will dominate the post-pandemic era. From a position of global domination of the US for most of the past century, now an effective US response to the COVID outbreak is inconspicuous not only globally, but also within its own borders. China's global recognition for its unprecedented public health response has led some to claim that it will now emerge as the global leader.

Global Village Space, 28 April 2020

Political Deadlock Compounds Iraq's COVID-19 Fight by **Hannan Hussain**, Assistant Research Officer

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a new Prime Minister designate of Iraq, the former intelligence Chief, Mustafa al-Kadhimi, has been nominated with decisive Shiite political support. This comes at a time when the window to contain COVID-19 in the Middle East is narrowing, and only a handful of countries in the region are capable of using nationwide shutdowns to public benefit. Though he has high chances of forming a new cabinet within the 30-day deadline, the longer it takes to form a government, the greater the setback for containment efforts.

China Global Television Network (CGTN), 18 April 2020



GOVERNANCE, ECONOMY AND TECHNOLOGY

Coronavirus and Political Economy by **Brig. (R) Raashid Wali Janjua**, Director Research

The Government of Pakistan's limited ability to deal with the COVID-19 crisis highlights its skewed spending priorities, where the health sector gets a meagre share in the national budget. Given that pandemics are fought with national resolution and resources, Pakistan is caught highly unprepared. The core reason is that Pakistan's political economy is heavily tilted towards substantial elite capture of state resources, at the expense of neglected sectors ministering to human security.

Pakistan Observer, 1 April 2020

Cheapskates & Bringing Home the Bacon by **Adeel Mukhtar Mirza**, Assistant Research Officer

The pandemic is causing dire financial consequences for economies and businesses around the world. It is imperative for governments to devise strategies to limit financial losses and secure the vulnerable segments of society. With lockdowns in place in Pakistan, between 12.3-18.5 million individuals are estimated to be rendered unemployed, resulting in monetary ramifications for labourers that will drive them to destitution. Furthermore, the absence of secure work contracts, legitimate assurances, and proper implementation of work regulations could aggravate the crisis. To counterbalance the monetary hardship, the government should, to the greatest extent allowed by its assets, help low-wage labourers and take action against exploitative factory owners.

Global News Pakistan, 15 April 2020

Reservations over Debt Issuance, Fiscal Conservatism Unwarranted as the EU Seals COVID-19 by **Hamzah Rifaat Hussain**, Assistant Research Officer

The 3.2 trillion Euros Coronavirus package is a fiscal response by the EU to the pandemic, a deal whose deliberation was initially marred by a complete absence of solidarity by some member states. The resultant gap was filled by prompt support from two non-EU countries, China and Russia. The 2010 debt crisis, existence of a fiscally conservative North and an indebted South make member states wary of sharing debt financing, and ultimately lead to the perceived inability of the EU to combat emergencies.

China Global Television Network (CGTN), 10 April 2020

Avalanche of COVID-19 on Indian Health Care System by **Adeel Mukhtar Mirza**, Assistant Research Officer

Given its inept health care sector, India is struggling to tackle the spread of COVID-19 in its 1.3 billion inhabitants, exposing that Indian expertise in health sector and affordability was widely exaggerated in Prime Minister Modi's narrative of "Shining India". The ground reality is alarming: only 0.7 beds per 1,000 occupants, testing shortages and limited test facilities. Shortage of disinfectants and costly protective masks render these items inaccessible to most. Given the limits of Indian public healthcare system to manage the crisis, private health care and private pharmaceutical companies have stepped in to fill the gap, leaving the poor facing high costs for treatment.

Global News Pakistan, 13 April 2020

Efficacy of Corona Tigers Relief Force by **Adeel Mukhtar Mirza**, Assistant Research Officer

In the battle against COVID-19, national governments are engaging citizens to take measures to assist those in need. Along with measures, such as grant of a PKR 1.13 trillion relief package, Pakistan has also set up the Corona Tigers Relief Force. This nationwide volunteer youth force is tasked to deliver food and medical supplies and raise awareness about the ongoing crisis. The Tiger Force is envisioned to utilise the large youth population in the country and also help avoid proliferation of the virus.

Global News Pakistan, 17 April 2020



**SOCIOCULTURAL &
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

Online Learning Woes during Lockdown by **Usama Nizamani**, Junior Consultant

The closure of educational institutions, due to the lockdown, poses as an opportunity for institutes to implement effective solutions to overcome challenges of online learning. These include making use of the available repository of teaching content available on online platforms; conducting exams through Exam Software; creating rooms and discussion boards for educational discussions using free services such as Google Classroom; ensuring availability of essential private space to students and teachers for completion of pending academic commitments; and providing psychological support to students dealing with seclusion.

The Nation, 15 April 2020

Confused Journalism & COVID by **Adeel Mukhtar Mirza**, Assistant Research Officer

In the psychological battle with the Coronavirus, mindfulness permits one to become aware and responsible to curb its spread since frenzy leads one to panic. Thus, the need arises to develop mental fortitude to creatively counter Coronavirus-induced anxiety. Journalists must play a key role in this effort by reporting sensibly to spread calm and not chaos. This is achieved by stressing on reporting using verified safeguards to educate the public, thus, catalysing positive behavioural change and countering fake news.

Geopolitica, 22 April 2020

IPRI Scholars' Research & Opinion Articles

Research & Opinion Articles

**Ambassador Vice Admiral (R)
Khan Hasham bin Saddique
President IPRI**

"Rethinking National Security
Post-Pandemic"
The Nation

**Brig. (R) Raashid Wali Janjua
Director Research**

1. "Coronavirus and Political
Economy"
Pakistan Observer
2. "Reformation of Pakistan's
Political Economy"
Pakistan Observer

**Dr Talat Farooq
Senior Consultant**

"The Indian Connection"
The Express Tribune

**Khurram Abbas
Research Officer**

"Why Is India Violating Ceasefire
on LOC Amid Corona?"
Global Village Space

Gulshan Bibi

Assistant Research Officer

1. "Deterrence Adrift: Dissecting
Indian Coercive Military Doctrines
2017-18"
*Journal of Security & Strategic
Analysis, Vol. 5, No. 1 (2020)*
2. "A Tale of Financial Aspects of
Countering Terrorism"
3. "Pieces of Broken Humanity: Bombs
vs. Breath"
4. Book Review of World Peace: (And
How We Can Achieve It) by Alex J.
Bellamy (2019)
The Reader's Review

**Waleed Yawer
Assistant Research Officer**

"Nightmare of Globalization: Will
Corona Reverse Globalization?"
Global Village Space

**Hamzah Rifaat Hussain
Assistant Research Officer**

1. "Conflict Resolution is the Key to
Deal with COVID-19 in War-Torn
Regions"
2. "Reservations over Debt
Issuance, Fiscal Conservatism
Unwarranted as the EU
Seals COVID-19"
3. "Settling Prisoner Deal Disputes
in Afghanistan Should Not
Create More Violence"
4. "The Irony of Trump's Campaign
Promise"
*China Global Television Network
(CGTN)*

**Hannan Hussain
Assistant Research Officer**

1. "Political Deadlock
Compounds Iraq's COVID-19 Fight"
Global News Pakistan
2. "Can't Keep Politics out of the
Pandemic?"
3. "OPEC Has No Choice but to
Deliver"
4. "Flatten the Curve of Threat and
Intimidation"
*China Global Television Network
(CGTN)*

**Adeel Mukhtar Mirza
Assistant Research Officer**

1. "Confused Journalism & COVID"
Geopolitica
2. "Avalanche of COVID-19 on
Indian Health Care System"
3. "Cheapskates & Bringing Home
the Bacon"
4. "Efficacy of Corona Tigers Relief
Force"
Global News Pakistan

**Maheen Ahmed
Assistant Research Officer**

1. "Connections from North to
South"
The Nation
2. "China Takes over the World
Leadership Role Abandoned
by US"
Global Village Space
3. "IMF, the Doctor Sahib"
Daily Times

**Usama Nizamani
Junior Consultant**

"Online Learning Woes during
Lockdown"
The Nation

**Zeeshan Javed
Junior Consultant**

"COVID-19 Security Threat:
Trillions Spent on Security but No
Mechanism to Fight COVID-19"
Global Village Space

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Forthcoming Publication



In continuation of the first paper in its Research and Policy Insight (RPI) Series on the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan, IPRI will be publishing *Learning Lessons from the Past for the Future: An Overview of Former FATA Agencies*. The in-depth paper will provide a quantitative exposition of each former agency and its various sectors such as education, health, economy, land use, water resources and sanitation, as well as offer insight on each region's demography, history, governance and administration.