

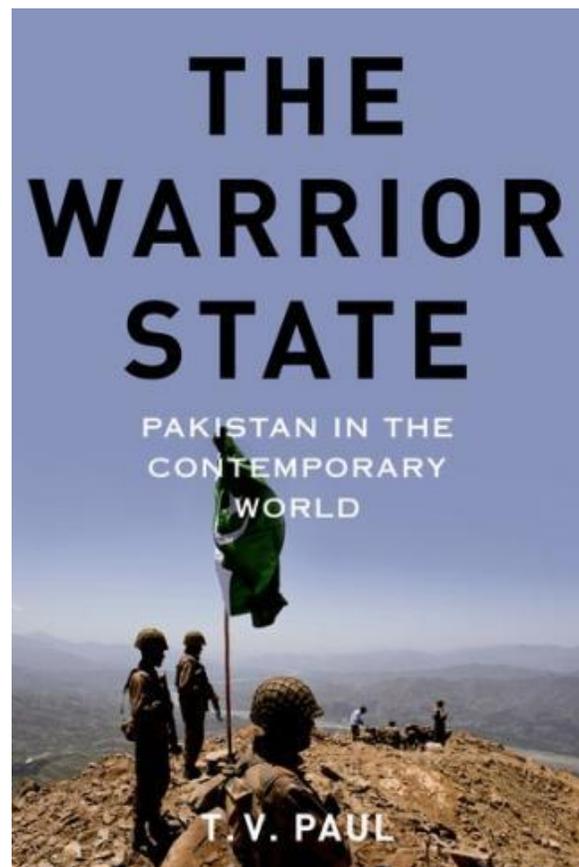
The Warrior State: Pakistan in the Contemporary World by T.V. Paul

Review by Samuel Brooks

T.V. Paul's book *The Warrior State: Pakistan in the Contemporary World* is a foundational book for anyone hoping to understand the historical aspects of Pakistan's complex culture, politics, and military. He presents the country through a clear and easy to digest writing style while still remaining objective and academic throughout.

The main theme Paul assesses through the book is what he deems the geo-strategic curse—a similar idea to what Richard Auty has called the resource curse. This is the idea that a country seemingly blessed with bountiful deposits of oil or natural resources begin to rely too much on this one resource for its economy and suffers developmentally as a result of not diversifying. Pakistan is located at the crossroads of the Middle East and Asia; it borders Afghanistan and is close to the former Soviet bloc. This location has allowed it to receive enormous amounts of aid from the United States and China, among other sources. This aid was given with few stipulations for reform and development because Pakistan was allowing U.S. forces to use its territory for military bases to spy on the Soviets and for their help in the War on Terror. Paul shows that this aid has allowed Pakistan's military elite to perpetuate its control over the civil society and allows little incentive to develop its economy, social institutions, and infrastructure.

The failure to develop has allowed the military to continue its hyper-realpolitik mentality, especially concerning relations with India. Paul defines Pakistan as a "warrior" state, the basis for the name of the book, because of its continued obsession of reaching hard power parity with its much larger neighbor at the expense of developing its domestic economy and society. This mentality has also contributed greatly to the proliferation of extremist Islamic groups and their insurgents, many of whom were originally trained by the Pakistani or American military to fight to Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. These forces have more and more often turned their sights toward Pakistan's interior for recruitment and the spread of extremist ideology, especially since the military



began aiding the US in the war on terror, and they now represent a further destabilizing force within Pakistan.

Paul concludes his book by offering steps that must be taken in order to assert civilian control, reduce violence and extremism, and prevent further destabilization in the world's sixth largest nuclear power. He uses comparisons to other former warrior states to prove that Pakistan has the ability to develop into a modern international society, but unless its political and military elites express the will to do so Pakistan will continue to devolve into chaos, corruption, and violence.

The Warrior State is a mentally stimulating and well written account of how Pakistan has become the state it is today. Paul provides evidence for his arguments while maintaining an easy to comprehend dialogue with his readers. I believe the situation in Pakistan would improve significantly if the leaders of Pakistan and the United States were to read and consider his work when drafting future policies and agreements.



Congressman Brad Sherman meets with Pakistani Ambassador Jahil Abbas Jilani



“Today, I met with Pakistani Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani to discuss South and Central Asia security, economic, and political issues as well as the human rights situation in the Sindh province. In response to a letter I sent Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif dated June 20, 2014, along with four other Members of Congress regarding the deaths of Sindhi activists, the Ambassador said he would report back to me on the result of the investigation into the killings of Maqsood Qureshi and Salman Wadho.”

From Congressman Brad Sherman's Facebook page, 2014 July 10

