Intolerance and Islamic extremism

**Preview:**

Intolerance leads to a lot of unwanted and horrific events in the society. Many have been cited above and one is Islamic extremism. Pakistan being a country with majority Islamic population has to live alongside non-Muslims. But Pakistan itself has fallen prey to sectarianism and Islamic extremism where sectarianism and extremism with intolerance lead to hazards that are marked for eternity in the history pages. Now we will be talking about roots of Islamic intolerance in Pakistan and the bad government policies and recent heartbreaking events due to extremism fueled by intolerance.

**Explanation:**

1. **Historical Aspects:-**  
   There are two kinds of threats that a country can face. Internal and external threats. However internal threats are more dangerous and fatal as compared to external threats. Pakistan has also been a victim of internal threats like Islamic extremism and religious intolerance. Soon after independence Pakistan faced a fatal blow in the shape of death of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. **Jinnah wanted Pakistan to be a state where people of all religions, casts, color or creed will be treated equally in all aspects such as laws, rights and basic necessities. And their religious affairs and beliefs will have nothing to do with the business of the state.** Such he cited in his illustrious presidential address to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on Aug 11, 1947. But unfortunately after his death there were very few who had such morally profound beliefs.
2. **Religious Fanatics and Mullaism:-**  
   After the death of Quaid e Azam many people set their eyes on the newly born state. A majority of them were religious fanatics who first opposed the Pakistani movement but later became a part of the country. Innocent and unaware people fell victim to these people. With the passage of time, Quaid e Azam’s idea of Pakistan started to fade away. Mullaism was amplified by cold war and Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
3. **Bad Governance:-**  
   General Zia ul Haq at that time assured his full support to extremists in the name of “Jihad” against the Soviets of Afghanistan. During his time, the recruitment of Jihadis from all over Pakistan and their training gained peak and so did extremism and Islamic violence. After this due to the failure of other governments in handling this Islamic unrest led to the deep rooting of extremists in our society.
4. **Public Examples: -**  
    **1.** Recently a 13 year old Christian girl was alleged of blasphemy only because she misspelled “Naat” that looked like “Lanat” in her class test by mistake. She was expelled from the school by the principal on the complaint of the teacher who should have known that a 13 year old student is definitely not mature enough and can make such spelling mistakes unintentionally. Moreover her prosecution was demanded by local Mullas and they protested to file a case against the young girl accusing her of blasphemy.  
    **2.** The Shia killings all over Pakistan and specifically in Quetta in another calamity that arises from the religious intolerance and extremism in Pakistan. People with narrow minds, foul agendas, and radical beliefs are behind such incidents.   
    **3.** Terrorism is one of the major things that arise as a result of religious intolerance and extremism. Recent attack on APSAC Peshawar and bomb blasts all over Pakistan condemned organizations to research on these terrorists, and it revealed that these people are simply extremists who have no sense of religion and are only bound to follow what they think is right. Anything that opposes their mentality, they consider it as their enemy. Narrow minded and brain washed people who have been trained such that they lose every sense of religion but can die in the name of Islam whenever needed. Such people have a high level of intolerance towards other people and their beliefs and their religious clashes are more than enough reason for them to kill the other person or people.   
    **4.** We have witnessed this on news about the forceful conversion of Hindus and Christians in Pakistan to Muslims. The extremists are of view that either die or be one of us. Religious extremists as stated above have very low concept of Islam and religion and they believe in Deen implemented by force. In non-Muslim societies, extremists kidnap Hindus or Christians and force them to embrace Islam and often force them to merry Muslims by converting to Islam, giving them no choice to return.
5. **In a Nut Shell:-**  
   Such events draw the horrible picture of the society we live in. Islam is a religion of peace and love. It preaches respect and welfare of Humanity, rather than mass killing and prosecution of non-Muslims or forcing them to do something just because they are the minority. Islam never conveys the message that just so people have different beliefs, they can be subjected to force and their unintentional actions can be deemed as blasphemy.
6. **Solutions:-**  
   In such a mess and heartrending situation, it is the responsibility of every individual and society to raise awareness regarding the propagandas and welfare of the state among those who have gone astray. We need to claim a Pakistan that endorses tolerance, peace, love, and equality rather than country plagued with intolerance, sectarianism, religious extremism and fanatic mentality.   
   It is not a local problem, instead this problem is faced by the whole country so the Government should take necessary action to confine such fanatics and extremists. Because only an action on the country level will brighten the glimmer of hope.