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RESEARCH PAPER

Military as a National Unity Pillar of Pakistan: Issues and Challenges

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ABSTRACT

This study explores Pakistan's military's dual function as a source of sociopolitical conflict and a unifying force, as well as its effects on socioeconomic development, governance, and national unity. The military has been essential in preserving territorial integrity, guaranteeing stability and tackling issues related to regional security since 1947. But its power in politics has frequently hampered the growth of democracy, widened regional and ethnic divides, and strained links between the military and the civilian population. To assess the military's contributions and difficulties in promoting national cohesiveness, this study uses a qualitative technique that includes case studies, historical analysis, and a critical examination of the body of current literature. The results show that although the military's role in internal security and counterterrorism has been essential to stability, it has also sparked worries about human rights abuses and civilian casualties. Additionally, political polarization has been sustained and the development of democratic institutions has been postponed due to the military's dominance in civilian rule. In order to reframe the military's role in fostering unity, the report emphasizes the necessity of changes, such as improved civilian control, democratic consolidation, and equal socioeconomic development. In order to match the military's contributions with Pakistan's objectives of equitable growth and democratic governance, these structural issues must be resolved.

| **KEYWORDS** | Civil-Military Relations, Counterterrorism, Democratic Governance, Ethnic Disparities, Military, National Integration, National Unity, Pakistan |

Introduction

Since its founding in 1947, Pakistan's military has been a vital component of national cohesion and has shaped the political, social, and economic landscape of the nation. The military has played a crucial role in upholding territorial integrity, stability, and national interests. The military has had a significant influence on initiatives to promote internal cohesion and national unity because of Pakistan's strategic location, which is characterized by ongoing security issues and regional conflicts. Because of this, its impact goes beyond defense and permeates the political and social realms, frequently impacting national growth and governance (Muzaffar& Choudhary, 2017; Muzaffar, Fern, & Yaseen, 2024).

But Pakistan's military's hegemonic role has also brought forth serious problems that impede the growth of democracy and national unity. The establishment of democratic institutions necessary for fostering inclusive national development has been hampered by the political instability brought about by the frequent military interventions and the entwining of civilian-military relations. The military's engagement in civilian government, while its function in bringing about temporary security, has frequently impeded the development of a more democratic and pluralistic society and contributed to the estrangement of civil society organizations and political elites. (Cohen, 2004; Siddiqa,

2007). Additionally, regional inequality, ethnic differences, and economic disparities have complicated efforts to forge a cohesive national identity, undermining the military's crucial position in Pakistan's nation-building process. (Hilali, 2022).

A number of sociopolitical problems, including as militarization, the brittleness of civil-military ties, and the demand for just and equitable growth, also pose a challenge to the military's attempts to foster national cohesiveness. Extremism, regional conflicts, and socioeconomic Disparities make the work of promoting stability and togetherness much more difficult. (Shah & Ishaque, 2017). While addressing the more fundamental structural problems that compromise the military's ability to serve as a unifying force, it is crucial to evaluate the military's contribution to fostering national unity and democratic stability as Pakistan continues to face these domestic and external challenges.

Literature Review

The main goal of national integration is to achieve social concord within a state by overcoming linguistic racial ethnic and religious divides. Ensuring that all facets of society contribute to the nation's overall growth is crucial for maintaining national security and unity. In this context integration is a continuous process that ensures all members of society have equal rights and opportunities free from prejudice. The ability of the government to foster a common sense of identity and pride through equitable development that guarantees equal rights for various populations and regions determines how strong national integration will be. Creating a cohesive national identity in the face of diverse linguistic, cultural, and geographical distinctions is a major difficulty for many post-colonial nations, including Pakistan. In the context of Pakistan, this essay investigates the theoretical aspects of national integration as well as its difficulties and ramifications. Recommendations to improve national integration within the nation are given in the last section. (Shah & Ishaque, 2017).

The political governance, internal and foreign security, and nation-building processes of Pakistan are at a turning point in their history. The destiny of the nation will be greatly influenced by the military's position. Any elected government must reaffirm the state's viability and vitality in the current political environment (Batool, Asmat, & Muzaffar, 2023). If it doesn't work, military action might be required to save the country from collapsing. Examining the individuals and events that have influenced Pakistan's course is essential to comprehending how the nation has arrived at this pivotal point. The interplay of internal and external variables will determine Pakistan's future and this book explores how the military has shaped the nation's political, geopolitical, strategic economic, religious, sociological, and sectarian developments throughout the previous 60 years (Singh, 2008).

The ideas of "nation-building" and "state-building," especially in the years following the Cold War, have been controversial and intricate. The process of bringing a state's citizens together to ensure long-term political and economic stability is known as nation-building. For newly established nation-states pursuing self-determination, the initial emphasis was on cultural identity. But in the modern world, the idea includes bringing disparate cultures with different languages, faiths, and cultural identities together under a single state with a single set of laws and a single constitution. As a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-religious state, Pakistan has a difficult time creating a feeling of shared identity. The intricate and delicate nature of the nation is a result of long-standing political and economic issues that jeopardize stability and security at home. The failure to accomplish significant nation-building continues to be Pakistan's biggest obstacle to national unity, and religion and outside threats are no longer adequate justifications for

the state's existence. According to academics, nation-building can only be accomplished by modernizing and democratizing economic development. Thus, it is the responsibility of the state to unite disparate national communities into a unified political body. The creation of stable political institutions, economic prosperity, and federal Democratization are essential for the success of nation-building. (Hilali , 2022).

Pakistan's history, the military has been instrumental in preserving national unity, especially in times of crisis. The military has repeatedly intervened in Pakistan's political landscape establishing itself as a stabilizing force in the face of political instability, a role that is frequently portrayed as vital for national cohesion in a nation characterized by ethnic linguistic, and regional diversity. (Cohen, 2004).

There have been many difficulties in the military's efforts to promote national unity. The military's hegemony over politics and its influence on democratic processes have occasionally weakened national unity. Constant military rule has impeded the development of a pluralistic and democratic society leading to estrangement among political elites and civil society further undermining national unity (Siddiqa, 2007).

Furthermore, the military's involvement in tackling internal security challenges has been vital to preventing the fragmentation of the state. Pakistan's military has played a crucial role in counterterrorism measures particularly in the context of growing militancy and extremism. Many people believe that the military's efforts to keep the nation safe are essential to keeping it from collapsing under the weight of extreme violence .However, the military's role in fostering unity has been complicated by worries about human rights abuses and civilian casualties brought on by its presence in conflict areas like the northwest and tribal areas. (Pape, 2005)

In the discourse on national unity, the relationship between the military and civil society has been a major topic. While the military may offer stability, it frequently does so at the expense of democratic institutions. The suppression of dissent and the lack of a thriving civil society have bred public mistrust, creating a divide between the government and the people that undermines the idea of a united Pakistan by making some sections of society feel excluded (Rashid, 2010).

Furthermore, there is a lot of disagreement on the place of religion in Pakistan's process of national unity. Religious narratives have played a significant role in shaping Pakistan's identity and the state's emphasis on Islamic identity has frequently marginalized minority groups escalating sectarian and ethnic conflicts. This has exacerbated the gap between the state and its non-Muslim citizens and led to the marginalization of religious minorities. Pakistan's nation-building efforts have failed to balance religious and secular interests, which has weakened the fabric of national unity. (Fair, 2010)

Promoting national integration requires economic development. Feelings of alienation among marginalized groups especially in Baluchistan and the tribal areas have been exacerbated by economic inequality and uneven development across Pakistan's provinces. National cohesion has been hampered by the state's failure to advance economic justice since economic underdevelopment frequently feeds resentment and instability. (Jaffrelot, 2002)

Political polarization has gotten worse as a result of Pakistan's democratization challenges. The military's political involvement has impeded the growth of democratic institutions and the establishment of a pluralistic political system. Because regional and

ethnic identities usually take precedence over national ones, political fragmentation has resulted, making attempts at national integration more challenging. (Nasr, 2005)

Additionally, the idea of democracy and its connection to Pakistani nation-building has been critically analyzed, and the process of nation-building has suffered as a result of the failure to attain actual democracy. The development of an inclusive and participatory political culture which is crucial for national integration, has been hampered by ongoing military rule, frequent disruptions in democratic governance, and the concentration of political power in a small number of hands (Muzaffar, Fern & Yaseen, 2023); Zakaria, 2008).

In addition, external elements such as foreign policy and international relations have impacted Pakistan's nation-building. The nation's internal politics and capacity to integrate diverse ethnic and regional groups have been greatly influenced by its alliance with foreign powers, especially the United States. Pakistan's internal conflicts have become even more complex due to the global geopolitical landscape, which has an impact on its national integration plans. (Murtaza, 2011)

Historical Role of the Military in Nation-Building

Throughout history, the military has contributed significantly to the development of infrastructure, national identity political stability and territorial integrity. At first, the military's main duty was to maintain a country's boundaries and sovereignty while shielding its population from outside dangers. In addition to providing defense military forces have played a crucial role in upholding law and order consolidating state power and facilitating the development of centralized governance (Cohen, 2004).

The military was frequently essential to preserving unity integrating disparate populations and creating a sense of national identity in many recently founded state especially post-colonial ones. The military's participation in these situations went beyond its customary defenses duties helping to strengthen governmental authority and forge a cohesive sense of national identity. For instance, in the face of regional and ethnic difficulties the military has played a crucial role in fostering national unity and resolving internal conflicts in nations like Pakistan. In many states, the military has also played a role in nation-building by creating roads, bridges, and communication networks, especially during times of war or conflict. Additionally, the military has promoted modernization initiatives and provided a platform for economic growth by acting as a vehicle for social mobilization, professional development, and technical innovation (Shah & Ishaque, 2017).

The armed forces contribution to nation-building hasn't always been trouble-free either. When civilian monitoring is inadequate militarization can result in authoritarianism, political instability, and the repression of democratic processes. Military administrations have frequently hampered the growth of democratic institutions and fostered political unrest delaying the complete accomplishment of nation-building objectives (Cohen, 2004).

Nonetheless, the military remains an essential institution for the stability and advancement of countries when properly balanced with civilian rule and democratic processes. It promotes social cohesion, national security, and economic progress, but its use must be properly controlled to prevent the detrimental effects of militarization (Shah & Ishaque, 2017).

Military and Civil Military Relation

Military and civil-military relations are the dynamic exchanges and power dynamics between a nation's military and civilian leadership, particularly with regard to decision-making and governance. These relationships are essential to maintaining democratic norms and civilian dominance over military matters in democracies by guaranteeing that the military stays under civilian authority. National security policy, military funding, and defense strategy are ultimately the responsibility of the civilian government, although the military offers professional advice and experience. Respect for one another, good communication, and conformity to the law are characteristics of healthy civil-military relations, which assist avoid military meddling in political affairs. However, the military may have an excessive amount of influence over political power in authoritarian or weakly institutionalized nations, which can occasionally result in military coups or authoritarian rule. Therefore, national stability, security, and democracy depend on the military and civilian duties being clearly defined and balanced. (Feaver, 2003; Huntington, 1957).

Military's role in counterterrorism and security

By supporting national security initiatives tactically and strategically, the military plays a critical role in counterterrorism and security. It frequently takes part in direct action operations against terrorist groups including as airstrikes, ground operations and raids. In order to detect and eliminate terrorist threats, military personnel also support intelligence collection, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). To stop networks that finance, train, and recruit terrorists, they collaborate with law enforcement intelligence and international coalitions. The military's engagement also extends to peacekeeping and stability missions in regions afflicted by terrorism, attempting to prevent the rebirth of extremist groups. Even though these operations are necessary to preserve both national and international security they also present moral and legal dilemmas, such as how to strike a balance between the use of force and the defense of human rights. (Hoffman, 2006)

Perception of the Military among Citizens

Political, social, cultural, and historical circumstances all have a significant impact on how the public views the military. Many societies respect and admire the military because of its role in maintaining national security protecting sovereignty and responding to natural catastrophes and humanitarian crises. Public perceptions of the military usually associate it with sacrifice discipline and patriotism. However, perceptions might be more important in some contexts particularly when military operations are linked to political interference, violations of human rights or long-running conflicts. (Eikenberry,2006). Public perception may be influenced by a number of factors including economic disparity political transparency and civil-military relations. Although many people value the military's contributions to peace and stability, some people may question its existence, policies, or role in civilian life. The public's perception of the military is influenced by historical events, cultural norms, national policies, and individual experiences. In democratic democracies, the military is often viewed as a custodian of national interests and a symbol of patriotism. However, this perception can shift based on how the military interacts with civilian governance. Citizens may favor the military's role in disaster relief, peacekeeping, and national defense in addition to criticizing its financial transparency and involvement in civilian matters.

The military's position is often seen negatively in countries with a history of military rule or authoritarian governance, where it is associated with persecution,

corruption, and breaches of human rights. The people may support limiting military authority in these circumstances or prioritizing democratic reform above military expansion. However, in nations with a rich military past or current national security issues, people are more likely to have faith in and respect their armed forces.

Economic factors also have a significant role. The people may view the military favorably when it offers employment opportunities and security, particularly in places with few economic options. However, concerns that military spending is taking money away from social services like healthcare or education could fuel skepticism or opposition. Media coverage also has a big impact on public opinion, influencing locals' opinions by reporting on misbehavior humanitarian aid, and military successes or failures. (Kirkpatrick , 2009)

Generational disparities also affect how people view the military. Younger generations may view the military differently as a result of globalization, technological advancements, and a decreased emphasis on conscription compared to earlier. However, mistrust may rise in post-conflict communities, politically unstable areas, or places where a high number of civilian deaths are linked to military operations. These traits are commonly observed in surveys and research conducted in different countries. Support is generally higher in areas that have recently experienced military successes, national crises, or where military service is ingrained in the fabric of the national identity. (Wright,2017)

Challenges to military's Role in unity

Political polarization is one of the major issues that can undermine the military's credibility and effectiveness in fostering national unity. It can split societies and make it difficult for the military to remain neutral while dealing with national crises. When military institutions are drawn into political disputes or show preference for certain political groups, they run the risk of eroding public confidence and national cohesion.

Civil-military interactions provide another difficulty since excessive military meddling in civilian affairs can erode democratic institutions and lead to instability. Furthermore, regional religious or cultural differences may make it more difficult for the military to bring disparate groups together. In areas where tensions have existed for a long time, soldiers from diverse backgrounds may find it difficult to remain neutral. (Sundberg, 2012)Another major obstacle is corruption. When officials behave dishonestly or mismanage resources public trust in the military declines which undermines the legitimacy of initiatives to promote unity. Additionally, foreign powers' or proxy wars' external activities can muddy military priorities and take attention away from internal cohesion.

Inadequate budget and resources are another issue that hinders the military's ability to respond to crises and promote peace. The military's capacity to engage with the public and resolve complaints may also be weakened by poor communication and a dearth of outreach initiatives. Lastly, without appropriate strategic frameworks, efforts to foster unity may be difficult due to institutional inexperience in peacebuilding and developmental tasks. A strong dedication to professionalism, citizen supervision, open government, and intentional community participation are necessary to overcome these obstacles.(Cohen, 2007)

Military and Provincial Integration

In order to maintain stability, security, and growth across many administrative regions, military and provincial integration is the process of coordinating military

operations personnel and infrastructure with regional or provincial governance. Through this integration, local administrations and the military will work together to handle regional security issues, advance economic growth, and uphold public order. Preventing conflicts, assisting with disaster relief, and bolstering government are the objectives of strategically allocating military resources in collaboration with provincial authorities. Through such integration, armed forces can preserve civilian control and democratic norms while addressing localized issues like as natural catastrophes, ethnic tensions, or insurgencies. However, good communication, appropriate resource distribution, civilian oversight, and the creation of structures to guarantee reciprocal responsibility and productive collaboration are necessary for military-provincial integration to be successful.

Criticism of the military's Role

The military's involvement is frequently criticized from an ethical, political, and social standpoint, raising questions about its priorities and initiatives. The militarization of societies and the frequent preference for military solutions over diplomatic or political ones are two main points of criticism. Critics contend that this use of force exacerbates tensions, undercuts peaceful conflict settlement, and takes funds away from essential social services like infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

Military actions in international conflicts are the subject of yet another important criticism. The legitimacy of such measures is questioned by critics, particularly when they are thought to be motivated more by geopolitical or economic strategic aims than by humanitarian considerations. This has given rise to charges of exploitation imperialism and disrespect for national sovereignty. Many military actions can cause long-term instability, displacement, and misery for civilian populations instead of ending hostilities.

The military's participation is frequently criticized at home, especially when it comes to instances of excessive force or the degradation of civil liberties. The separation between military and law enforcement functions may become hazy when military resources are used for civilian police, raising questions about authoritarian overreach. Critics also point out that military spending frequently trumps social welfare budgets, causing inequality and ignoring urgent community needs. (Khan, 2015)

The handling of both soldiers and civilians during military operations raises additional ethical issues. The human cost of war such as trauma, harm, and fatalities concerns about whether military tactics put winning ahead of treating all sides with compassion. In addition, criticism of military tactics and their implementation has increased due to problems like war crimes disregard for international humanitarian law, and the psychological effects on returning soldiers.

International Perspective on Military-Dominated Police in Pakistan

Pakistan's military-dominated police force is an example of the intricate relationship between law enforcement, military influence, and civilian governance. The military has historically had a significant impact on Pakistan's political and administrative environment, with military governments and subsequent coups reshaping state institutions, including the police. This military influence has developed a law enforcement organization often characterized by militarism, bureaucracy, and a focus on order rather than community oriented police.

International Perspective

The militarization of police forces is a hotly contested topic worldwide. Effective law enforcement relies on professionalism, democratic oversight, accountability and transparency according to numerous international organizations. To guarantee that human rights are upheld and that the police continue to account to elected leaders, the United Nations and other international organizations support civilian oversight of law enforcement. These international norms contrast with Pakistan's paradigm where military involvement in civilian law enforcement organizations is still quite strong. Concerns about corruption, human rights abuses, and the deterioration of democratic civilian institutions are frequently raised by the military's hegemony over Pakistan's police force. By guaranteeing civilian supervision of law enforcement agencies and promoting accountability and openness, numerous international players, including the US and European nations, encourage Pakistan to implement changes that are consistent with global best practices. Furthermore, nations that go from militarized to community-based law enforcement are thought to have had greater success in fostering trust between the government and its people. The balance between state security and civil liberties protection which many foreign viewpoints stress as being essential for long-term peace democratic governance, and law and order has thus come under scrutiny as a result of Pakistan's military domination in police affairs.(Rehman,2014)

Future Prospects and Reforms

Pakistan's law enforcement system's future rests on resolving the systemic and structural issues brought on by its military-dominated structure. Reforms are necessary to move from a militarized system to a professional civilian controlled police force that complies with international norms, as the international community civil society and local governments stress.

Future Prospects

The future of Pakistan's law enforcement system depends on institutional changes democratization, and improved civil-military ties.

The following events probably influences how Pakistan's police force develops in the future:

Increased Civil-Military Balance

Finding the right balance between military influence and civilian control is one of the most important future objectives. Although having a strong military is important for national security, democratic stability requires addressing the overabundance of military involvement in civilian law enforcement.

Community-Oriented Policing (COP)

A community-oriented policing approach instead of a militarized top down one could increase public trust in law enforcement organizations. This strategy will probably be emphasized in future changes, which will concentrate on transparency community involvement, and crime prevention.

Strengthened Democratic Governance

Reforms will be shaped in large part by Pakistan's democratic stability. The military's role in policing may decline if political parties and civilian governments take on more responsibility for monitoring law enforcement. To establish an independent and

competent police force, civilian administrations must be able to guarantee accountability and openness.

International Collaboration and Aid

International assistance and support will probably be crucial in determining the kind of reforms. It's likely that nations like the US, EU, and UNDP will keep funding the construction of training infrastructure, capacity building, and oversight procedures.

Youth and Technological Integration

Opportunities to modernize the police system are presented by the younger generation and technology developments. Digital law enforcement systems, data analysis surveillance technology and other technological tools could improve accountability and transparency while streamlining police operations.

Recommended Reforms

Pakistan has to implement a multifaceted reform strategy in order to realize these future opportunities. The following changes may open the door to a police force that is more civilian controlled and professional.

Establish Civilian Oversight Mechanisms

Objective: Establish independent, civilian-led oversight organizations to lessen military dominance.

Action Steps

Create impartial oversight organizations for parliamentary and law enforcement committees.
Create civilian review bodies that have the authority to monitor police rules and practices.
Strengthen accountability frameworks to ensure transparency and democracy

Reform Police Training and Professionalization

Objective: Educate law enforcement officers on community-based policing, human rights, and global best practices.

Action Steps

Collaborate with global organizations to update police training initiatives.

To guarantee that police operations adhere to civil liberties and international law, implement routine human rights training.

Enhance hiring procedures so that professionals are chosen on the basis of qualifications rather than political clout.

Introduce Community-Oriented Policing (COP)

Objective : Build stronger relationships between law enforcement institutions and local communities.

Action Steps

In order to work directly with communities on crime reduction methods, police officers should be deployed into neighborhoods

Reinforce local law enforcement with an emphasis on reducing crime through social programs, education, and crime mapping.

To increase public trust in law enforcement, open venues for comments and openness should be established.

Reduce Military Involvement in Civilian Policing

Objective: Restrict the military's participation in regular law enforcement activities to those that serve strategic and counterterrorism objectives

Action Steps

Gradually move military responsibilities from civilian enforcement to military command organizations with established legal bounds.

To guarantee that military resources are used strategically rather than in the course of regular law enforcement operations support specialized civilian-led counterterrorism teams.

Enhance Transparency and Accountability

Objective: Make sure law enforcement is held accountable and deal with chronic corruption.

Action Steps

Implement internal accountability measures including open reporting platforms and audits.

 Boost anti-corruption teams and make guarantee that unbiased investigations are conducted in response to accountability violations.

To supervise investigations and police behavior, use external evaluations and independent monitoring.

Legal and Policy Reforms

Update obsolete laws to accord with human rights norms and modern policing techniques. For the police to follow the law, judicial scrutiny of their operations should be strengthened.

Invest in Technology and Modernization

Objective: Make law enforcement more data-driven, transparent, and effective by utilizing technology.

Action Steps

Utilize data analysis for strategic planning, resource allocation, and crime prevention introduce contemporary surveillance methods while protecting people' right to privacy and enhance coordination and communication between police departments to guarantee interoperability.

Strengthen International Partnerships for Reform

Form alliances to offer financial and technical support for reform projects with international development organizations including the EU, World Bank, and UN.

To modify civilian oversight and community participation procedures, take inspiration from other nations' effective law enforcement approaches.

The military has been a key component of Pakistan's political, social, and security scene, contributing significantly to the country's unification. Its influence has brought about a number of difficulties, even while its involvement has helped to maintain stability during times of crisis. The centralization of authority, which has marginalized civilian governance; the militarization of politics, which has weakened democratic institutions; and the ongoing war with neighboring India, which has provided justification for an increased military role, are the main concerns (Malik, Yaseen. & Muzaffar, 2023).

Conclusion

Furthermore, questions have been made concerning the military's ability to handle the intricate sociopolitical dynamics of a diverse country due to its role in national development and influence in foreign policy. Tensions between military and civilian authorities are frequently stoked by the military's leadership in security matters, resulting in an imbalance that impedes the advancement of institutions and democracy. Addressing these issues is essential for Pakistan's future stability and unity. This includes strengthening democratic processes, defining the roles of military and civilian institutions clearly, and making sure the military stays in line with the larger objectives of national development and unity. Pakistan can only expect to create a future in which its military serves as a stabilizing factor rather than a roadblock to advancement by resolving these problems.

Recommendations

- To guarantee that the military stays under democratic authority and functions within the bounds of the constitution, strengthen civilian monitoring.
- Encourage improved military-civil relations by focusing on teamwork and collaboration while upholding a distinct role division.
- Motivate the military to take an apolitical stand and concentrate only on defending the country, staying out of politics.
- Encourage socioeconomic development initiatives that reduce the military's involvement in business endeavors by involving it in non-political roles.
- To foster public trust and avoid impressions of militarization, emphasis accountability and transparency within the military.
- Address issues related to internal security by coordinating military and civilian authorities while upholding human rights
- By guaranteeing political stability and giving elected officials the freedom to decide without military intervention, democratic institutions are strengthened.

- To address national issues and foster unity, promote inclusive national conversations that include a range of political, social, and military leaders.
- Give the military's internal organizational reforms top priority in order to guarantee professionalism and efficient administration without intruding too much into civilian governance.
- Strengthen the military's contribution to national development without undermining civilian authority by enhancing military-civil cooperation in humanitarian and disaster management initiatives.
- Lessen military participation in commercial endeavors, making sure the defense industry stays committed to national security rather than business endeavors.
- Fund educational and public awareness initiatives that emphasize the value of civilian rule over military authority and democratic governance.
- Encourage long-term peacebuilding initiatives with surrounding nations to shift the military's focus from external wars to internal stability and development.
- Strengthen the rule of law and increase law enforcement's ability to lessen reliance on the military for internal security duties.
- Establish procedures for holding the military responsible for any transgressions of human rights or constitutional legislation.
- To ensure that the military's acts are subject to legal scrutiny and to foster a feeling of justice and fairness, the judicial system should be strengthened.

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