

UNDERSTANDING BALOCHISTAN

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By

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**Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)
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FOREWORD

There is a growing concern with regard fissures that plague Pakistan's Balochistan Province. Awareness on the historical, social and cultural factors that impact these issues is largely inadequate even amongst otherwise informed readers.

'Understanding Balochistan' is a compilation and analysis of factual data on various aspects relating to the province undertaken by Shri R Chandrashekhar, Senior Fellow, CENJOWS with the aim and intent to make available to a discerning reader facts and information which will enable a comprehensive understanding and strategic analysis of issues relating to Balochistan.

The information contained in this 'Handbook' is sourced entirely from literature available in the open domain.

V. Bhatia

(Vinod Bhatia)
Lt Gen (Retd)
Director

28 Nov 2016



Introduction

The Baloch are a large pastoral group of people who moved into their present homeland during or around the 11th century AD. While traditionally, the Baloch have been a nomadic people, they remain today a largely pastoral society, though no longer nomadic. Several Baloch have since switched to urban occupations and lead more sedentary lives than their ancestors.

Traditional culture however remains important, particularly in storytelling and song; handcrafted Balochi rugs are prized throughout the world. Most Balochis continue to use the Balochi language and to practise Islam.

There are approximately 10 million Balochis worldwide, with the majority living in region known as Balochistan in present

day Pakistan (about 70%) and adjacent regions of Sistan-Balochistan in Iran (20%). There is, besides, a sizeable Baloch population in Afghanistan and Baloch people are also found across other provinces of Pakistan and the Middle-east. In recent years, they have become more culturally assimilated in their states of residence, and this has been particularly true of those who have left Balochistan to seek better-paid employment.

A characteristic of Baloch history has been a tradition of rebellion against the powers that rule them and the very low threshold for entering into internecine conflicts and strife. The history of these very proud peoples, their unique culture, social structures and traditions and their present day circumstances and concerns is indeed a fascinating narrative that requires an in-depth understanding, which is what this 'Handbook' seeks to aid and assist.

Tribes of Balochistan

According to legend, when the Baluch first arrived in Baluchistan, they were united under one headman, one Jalal Khan, but soon split either along ancestral lines or based on which headman they chose to follow as they spread north and east across Baluchistan. Some sources indicate the Baluch are essentially made up of three or five main tribal groupings, though these vary according to the source. Some list the Narui, Rind, and Magzi, some the Rind, Magzi, and Lashari, and some the Rind, Hot, Lashari, Kaheri, and Jatoi. In addition to these, there were several other unaffiliated Baluch tribes.

The structure within each Baluch tribe follows a more or less common pattern:

Tuman/Toman (Tribe) : The Baluch are divided into tumans led by a tumandar/ tomandar (chief). The term tuman also refers to a Baluch village.

Para/Phara (Clan) : Tumans are divided into paras led by a mukadam/ mukadam (headman or chief).

Pali/Phalli (Division) : Paras are divided into palis led by a headman, sometimes called a wadera. Palis are sometimes further divided into family groups led by the head of the family, sometimes called a motabar.

A grouping called a **sub-tuman** occurs in some cases between tuman and para and is a large clan or sub-tribe, having its own significant sections akin to clans. (Examples of these are the Haddiani clan of the Leghari tribe, the Durkani and Lashari clans of the Gurchani tribe, the Ghulmani clan of the Buzdar tribe, the Shambani clan of the Bugti tribe, and the Mazarani clan of the Marri tribe).

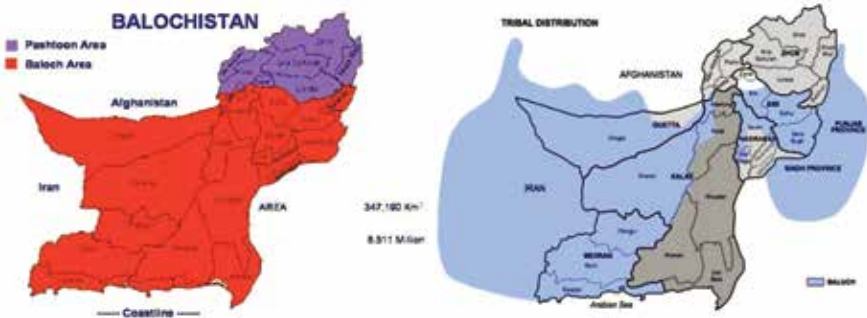
Balochi-speaking Tribes : The Balochi tribes include Rind, Lashar, Marri, Jamot, Ahmedzai, Bugti Domki, Magsi, Kenazai, Khosa, Rakhshani, Dashti, Umrani, Noshervani, Gichki, Buledi, Notazai, Sanjarani, Meerwani, Zahrozai, Langove, Kenazai and Khidai. Each tribe is further sub-divided into various branches. Among the eighteen major Baloch tribes, Bugtis and Marris are the principal ones who are settled in the buttresses of the Sulemania. The Talpur Mirs of Sind also claim Baloch origin.

Brahvi-speaking Tribes : Include Raisani, Shahwani, Sumulani, Sarparrah, Bangulzai, Mohammad Shahi, Lehri, Bezenjo, Mohammad Hasni, Zehri, Sarparrah, Mengal, Kurd, Sasoli, Satakzai, Lango, Rodeni, Kalmati, Jattak, Yagazehi and Qambarani, most of these tribes are bi-lingual and are quite fluent both in the Balochi and Brahvi Languages.

Pashtoon Tribes Include Kakar, Ghilzai Tareen, Mandokhel, Sherani, Luni, Kasi and Achakzai.

The distribution of Balochs in the general region and in the province of Balochistan are as in the maps below:

The following are the primary Baluch tribes in Pakistan



Pakistani Baloch Tribes

Bugti (aka Bughti) : An eastern Baluch tribe located almost exclusively in Dera Bugti District of Sibi Division, Baluchistan and made up of various elements, mainly of Rind origin, having its headquarters at Syahaf (also called Dera Bibrak and Bughti Dera), in the angle of the Sulaiman Mountains, between the Indus and Kachhi. Said to have descended from Gyandar, cousin of Mir Chakur. Gyandar's son, Raheja, is said to have given his name to the Raheja clan, but the name appears to be of Indian origin. The Shambani are a sub tuman, sometimes considered distinct from the Bughti. A few also live in Sibi District of Sibi Division and Barkhan District of Zhob Division. The Bugtis, along with the Marris, Dombkis, and Jakranis, are known as the "hill tribes" and have historically been more independent and warlike than the rest of the Baluch. In the past they raided their neighbors, including those in Sindh and Punjab Provinces, and were the most troublesome Baluch tribes for the British. Today the Marri and Bugti tribes lead the Baluch nationalist movement, along with the Mengal Brahuis.

(Major Clans : Durrag/Nothani/Khalpar/Masori/Mondrani/Notheri/Perozani/Raheja/Shambani).

Buledi (aka Boledi, Bolidi, Buledhi, Bulethi, Burdi): Derived from Boleda, in Makran, and long the ruling race until ousted

by the Gichki. Found also near the Indus in Upper Sindh, in the tract called Burdika, and in the Kachhi territory of Kalat. Originally located near the coasts of Iran and Pakistan, the Buledi moved north and east into Kalat Division, Baluchistan and northern Sindh, near the Indus River, having been pushed out of Makran by the Gichki tribe. Some likely remained in Sistan va Baluchestan Province, Iran and Makran Division, Baluchistan. Most sources list the Buledi as belonging to the eastern Baluch, but some list them as western. One source lists them as a Rind clan.

(Major Clans: Gholo/Hajija/Jafuzai/Kahorkani/Kotachi/Lauli/Pitafi/Raite).

Buzdar (aka Bozdar): A tribe living in the Sulaiman Mountains, north of Dera Ghazi Khan. Probably partly of Rind descent but have become an independent tribe.. The name means 'goatherd.' Located in Dera Ghazi Khan District, Punjab.

(Major Clans: Gulman/Namurdi).

Chandia(aka Chandya): Located primarily between the Indus River in Sindh and the Baluchistan border , in the tract known as Chanduka or Chandko, where they have reportedly assimilated with the local inhabitants. They also reside in Dera Ismail Khan District of the North-West Frontier Province and Muzaffargarh District, Punjab. They may have originally been a Leghari Baluch clan. There is also a Chandya clan in the Leghari Tribe.

Dombki (aka Domki, Dumki) : An eastern Baluch tribe located primarily in the vicinity of Lahri in Bolan District of Nasirabad Division, Baluchistan, but also found in Sindh. The Dombkis are hill tribes, and like the Marri and Bugti, carried out raids against their neighbors up to the late 1800s. The Dombki, Marri, Bugti, and Jakrani tribes often feuded with and raided one another, but sometimes allied against other tribes or the British. Dombkis are reputedly the storytellers of the Baluch

and the recorders of Baluch genealogy and said in the ballads, to be the 'greatest house among the Baloch.' Chakur speaks of them as great in 'guftar'—i.e., song or speech—and they are still called the 'Daptar,' or recorders of Baloch genealogy. Owing to this fact and the similarity of name, some accuse them of being Doms; but their high rank, admitted by all, seems to preclude this idea. A satirical Gurchani bard says: 'The Dombkis are little brothers of the Dome.' Their present head quarters are at Lehri in Kachhi. Their name is said by some to be derived from a river in Persia named Dumbak.

(Major Clans: Baghdar/Bhand/Brahmani/Dinari/DirKhani/Fattwani/Gabol/Galatta/Galoi/Ghaziari/Gishkaun/Gurgel/Hara/Jekrani/Jumnani/Khosa/Lashari/Mirozai/Muhammandani/Shabkor/Singiani/Sohriani/Talani/Wazirani).

Drishak: Located primarily in the vicinity of Asni in Dera Ghazi Khan District, Punjab. The plains tribes between the eastern border of Baluchistan and the Indus River in Punjab and Sindh, including the Drishaks, Gurchanis, Lunds, and Mazaris, suffered most from the raids conducted by the hill tribes, the Bugtis, Dombkis, Jakranis, and Marris. Now an organized tribe in Dera Ghazi Khan. Headquarters at Asni. Said to be descended from a companion of Chakur, nicknamed 'Drishak,' or strong from holding up a roof that threatened to collapse on some Lashari women who were prisoners. Possibly connected with Dizak in Makran. A servile tribe, now of small importance. Had cooperated with the British who controlled Punjab and Sindh from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s.

Gichki (aka Ghichki): A western Baluch tribe located primarily in Panjgur District of Makran Division, Baluchistan. The Gichkis are not ethnically Baluch, likely originating in Sindh or India as Sikhs or Rajputs, but now speak Baluchi and have become assimilated into the Baluch. The Gichki likely also absorbed a number of smaller Baluch tribes in the Makran region. The Gichki reportedly entered Makran around the end of the 17th

century and, though a small tribe, by inter-marrying and using other tribal militias, soon became a powerful tribe in the area. In the late 1700s, the Brahui Khan of Kalat seized control of the Makran region, but allowed the Gichki chiefs to manage it as a state within the Khanate. In the late 1800s, the Nausherwanis, who had entered western Baluchistan from Iran and settled in Kharan District of Kalat Division, expanded into Makran, reducing Gichki power until the British checked their advances.

(Major Clans: Dinarzai/ Isazai).

Gurchani (aka Garshani, Gorchani, Gurcshani): Located in the vicinity of Lalgah, near Harrand in Dera Ghazi Khan District, Punjab. They are reportedly originally descended from the Dodai, a once important tribe that no longer exists. The Gurchani tribe has over time absorbed elements of the Buledi, Lashari, and Rind Baluch. **The plains tribes between the eastern border of Baluchistan and the Indus River in Punjab and Sindh, including the Drishaks, Gurchanis, Lunds, and Mazaris, suffered most from the raids conducted by the hill tribes, the Bugtis, Dombkis, Jakranis, and Marris.** The plains tribes generally cooperated with the British who controlled Punjab and Sindh from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s.

(Major Clans: Chang/Durkani/Holawani/Hotwani/Jikskani/Jogiani/Khalilani/Lashari/ Pitafi/Shaihakani/ Suhrani).

Hot (aka Hut): One of the original main sections of the Baloch. Very widely spread. They form a powerful tribe still in Makran, and ruled at Dera Ismail Khan for two hundred years. Part of the Khosa tribe and the Balachani Mazaris are said to be of Hot descent. They are found in Dera Isrnail Khan, Muzafargarh, Multan, and Jhang. As also in the vicinity of Bampur in Iran's Sistan va Baluchestan province.

(Major Clan: Singalu)

Jamali: An eastern Baluch tribe located primarily in northern Sindh, but also found in Nasirabad Division, Baluchistan, on

the border between Baluchistan and Sindh.

(Major Clans: Babar/ Bhandani/ Dhoshli/ Manjhi/ Mundrani/ Pawar/ Rehanwala/ Sahrani/ Shahaliani/ Shahalzal/ Taharani/ Tingiani/ Waswani/ Zanwrani).

Jatoi (aka Jatui): A wide-ranging Baluch tribe located in the following areas: Nasirabad Division, Baluchistan; Dera Ghazi Khan, Lahore and Muzaffargarh Districts, Punjab; Dera Ismail Khan, North-West Frontier Province; and northern Sindh. According to one source, they are no longer a coherent tribe but are spread among other Baluch tribes. According to legend, they are one of the five original Baluch tribes, descended from Jalal Khan, the others being the Hot, Kaheri, Lashari, and Rind tribes.

Kaheri (aka Kahiri): A small, eastern Baluch tribe located in Nasirabad Division, Baluchistan though according to legend, they too are one of the five original Baluch tribes, descended from Jalal Khan.

(Major Clans: Bulani/Moradani/Qalandrani/Tahirani).

Kasrani (aka Kaisrani, Qaisarani, Qaisrani): Located in the Sulaiman Range along the northwestern border of Dera Ghazi Khan District, Punjab. The most northerly of their clans resides on the border of Dera Ghazi Khan District, Punjab and Dera Ismail Khan District, North-West Frontier Province. They are reported to be originally descended from the Rind tribe.

Khetran: The Khetran tribe is not Baluch and so is not included in the Baluch tree, but they are closely associated with the Baluch and warrant some mention. Like the Gichki, they are thought to be of Indian origin, but unlike the Gichki who have taken on the Baluchi language, the Khetran speak an Indian dialect akin to Sindhi and Jatki. Some sources class the Khetran among the Baluch hill tribes, as they formerly shared the same propensity for raiding as the Bugtis, Dombkis, Jakranis, and Marris. The Khetrans allied with the Bugtis against the Marris

when conflicts arose, though conflicts and alliances among hill tribes were short-lived.

Khosa (aka Kosah): An eastern Baluch tribe located in Nasirabad Division, Baluchistan, Dera Ghazi Khan District, Punjab, and in the vicinity of Jacobabad in northern Sindh. Some sources list them as a Rind clan, though one source claims they are of Hot descent.

(Major Clans: Balelani/ Khilolani/ Umrani).

Lashari (aka Chahi, Lashar and Lishari): An eastern Baluch tribe located primarily in Baluchistan, but also found in small numbers in the vicinity of Bampur in Sistan va Baluchestan, Iran. According to legend, they are one of the five original Baluch tribes, descended from Jalal Khan, the others being the Hot, Jatoi, Kaheri, and Rind tribes. The Rinds and Lasharis, originally enemies, allied and conquered the indigenous populations of modern Kalat, Nasirabad, and Sibi Divisions in the 16th century.

Major Clans: Alkai/ Bhangrani/ Chuk/ Dinari/ Goharamani/ Gullanzai/ Mianzai/ Sumrani/ Muhammadani/ Pachi/ Tajani/ Tawakalani/ Tumpani/ Wasuwani).

Leghari (aka Lagaori, Lagariand Laghari): Located primarily in Dera Ghazi Khan District, Punjab, but also found in Barkhan District of Zhob Division, Baluchistan and possibly in northern Sindh. According to one source, the Leghari are a Rind Baluch clan.

(Major Clans: Chandya/Haddiani/Haibatani/Kaloi/Talbur).

Lund (aka Lundi): Located primarily in Dera Ghazi Khan District, Punjab. The Lund is a large tribe divided into two sub-tribes, one located at Sori and the other in Tibbi. The Sori Lunds are more numerous than the Tibbi Lunds. The plains tribes between the eastern border of Baluchistan and the Indus River in Punjab and Sindh, including the Drishaks, Gurchanis,

Lunds, and Mazaris, suffered most from the raids conducted by the hill tribes, the Bugtis, Dombkis, Jakranis, and Marris. The plains tribes generally cooperated with the British who controlled Punjab and Sindh from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s.

(Major Clans: Ahmdani/Khosa/Lund/Rind).

Magzi (aka Magasi, Magassi, Maghzi, Magsi): An eastern Baluch tribe located primarily in Jhal Magsi District of Nasirabad Division, Baluchistan. The Magzi were historically farmers but occasionally committed raids against neighbors. They, along with the Rinds, accepted the authority of the Khan of Kalat in the late 1700s. The Magzis and Rinds, who border one another occasionally, feuded in the past. The Magzis, though fewer in number, defeated the Rinds in 1830.

(Major Clans:Ahmadani/ Bhutani/ Chandraman/ Hasrani/ Hisbani/ Jaghirani/ Jattak/ Katyar/ Khatohal/ Khosa/ Lashari/ Marri/ Mughemani/ Mugheri/ Nindani/ Nisbani/ Rahajs/ Rawatani/ Sakhani/ Shambhani/Sobhani/Umrani).

Marri (aka Mari): An eastern Baluch tribe located almost exclusively in Kohlu District of Sibi Division, Baluchistan; some also reside in northern Kalat and Nasirabad Divisions in the Bolan Pass area. The Marris, along with the Bugtis, Dombkis, and Jakranis are known as the “hill tribes” and have historically been more independent and warlike than the rest of the Baluch. In the past they raided their neighbors, including those in Sindh and Punjab Provinces, and were the most troublesome Baluch tribes according to the British. Today the Marri and Bugti tribes lead the Baluch nationalist movement, along with the Mengal Brahuīs.

(Major Clans: Bijarani/Damani/Ghazni/Loharani/Mazarani/ Miani).

Mazari: An eastern Baluch tribe located primarily in the vicinity of Rojhan in southern Dera Ghazi Khan District, Punjab, and between the Indus River and the border of Sibi Division,

Baluchistan in northern Sindh. The plains tribes between the eastern border of Baluchistan and the Indus River in Punjab and Sindh, including the Drishaks, Gurchanis, Lunds, and Mazaris, suffered most from the raids conducted by the hill tribes, Bugtis, Dombkis, Jakranis, and Marris. **The plains tribes generally cooperated with the British who controlled Punjab and Sindh from the mid-1800s to mid- 1900s.** Prior to British rule, the Mazaris were known as “pirates of the Indus” because of attacks they conducted and fees they extorted from traders on the river. Most recently, following the rape of a female doctor at the Sui gas facility in 2005, the Bugti, Marri, Mazari, and Mengal Brahuis joined forces and attacked the facility, resulting in gas shortages throughout Pakistan.

(Major Clans: Balachani/Kurd).

Nausherwani (aka Naosherwani, Nawshirvani): The Nausherwani tribe is not Baluch and so is not included in the Baluch tree, but they are closely associated with the Baluch and warrant some mention. Their origins are obscure, but they have now fully merged with the Baluch. They primarily inhabit Kharan District of Kalat Division, Baluchistan and Sistan va Baluchestan, Iran. The Nausherwanis, who nominally fell under the authority of the Khan of Kalat, were the most powerful tribe in the Kharan area as of the early 1900s. Around that time the British checked their efforts to expand south into the Makran region.

Rakhshani (aka Bakhshani, Rakshani, Rekhshani): A western Baluch tribe located in Kharan District of Kalat Division and Chagai District of Quetta Division, Baluchistan and along the Helmand River in southern Afghanistan. There are also Rakhshanis in eastern Baluchistan, Sindh, and Iran. Some list the Rakhshani as a Rind Baluch clan and others as a Brahui tribe. **The Rakhshanis of Kharan were loyal to the Khan of Kalat and well-disposed toward the British as of the early 1900s.**

Rind: The Rind is a western Baluch tribe. Their headquarters

is reportedly in Shoran in Jhal Magsi District of Nasirabad Division, but they are also located in Quetta and Makran Divisions in Baluchistan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, and Multan Districts in Punjab, and Dera Ismail Khan District in North-West Frontier Province. Many other Baluch tribes claim to be Rinds or descended from Rinds. Many of those listed as Rinds are now completely independent and have long-since moved away from the Rind core. This could account for sources reporting such a wide geographic distribution of the tribe. The Rinds and Lasharis, originally enemies, allied and conquered the indigenous populations of modern Kalat, Nasirabad, and Sibi Divisions in the 16th century. They, along with the Magzis, accepted the authority of the Khan of Kalat in the late 1700s. The Magzis and Rinds, who border one another, occasionally feuded in the past. In 1830, the Magzis, though fewer in number, had defeated the Rinds.

(Major Clans: Buzdar/Chandia/Gabol/Godri/Gulam/Bolak/Hot/Jamali/Jatoi/Khosa/Kuchik/Kuloi/Lashari/Leghani/Nakhezal/Nuhani/Raheja/Rakhsani).

Umrani: A small eastern Baluch tribe located primarily in Nasirabad Division, Baluchistan. Some may also live between the Indus River and eastern border of Baluchistan in Sindh.

(Major Clans: Balachani/Burian/Dilawarzai/Ghanhani/Jonghani/Malghani/Misriani/Nodkani/ Paliani/ Sethani/Sobhani/Tangiani).

Afghan Balochs

The Baluch in Afghanistan for the most part have different names and groupings from those in Baluchistan and are not usually included in the Baluch tribal lists provided by British sources from the 1800s and 1900s. The only Baluch tribe that seems to inhabit territory on both sides of the border is the Rakhshani. The Baluch in Afghanistan are mostly nomads living primarily in Nimruz Province, along the banks of the Helmand

River and on the western border of Afghanistan between Kala-i-Fath and Chakhansur (Zaranj). Some sources place them all along the southern border of Afghanistan in Nimruz, Helmand, and Kandahar Provinces, with small pockets farther north in Farah, Badghis, and Jowzjan Provinces.

The following are the most commonly mentioned Baluch tribes in Afghanistan:

Gorgeg (aka Gargeg, Ghurchij, Gorgaiz, Gorget, Gurgech, Gurgeech, Gurgich): Located in southern Afghanistan along the Helmand River. According to one source, the Gurgech (Gorgeg) are a section of the Rakhshani Baluch.

Kashani: Located in southern Afghanistan along the Helmand River.

Mamasani (aka Muhammad Hasani, Muhumsani): Located in southern Afghanistan along the Helmand River and in Farah Province. There are also some Mamasani located in Makran Division, Baluchistan, Pakistan, but their relationship to one another is unclear.

Nahrui: Located in southern Afghanistan.

Rakhshani (aka Bakhshani, Rakshani, Rekhshani): Located in southern Afghanistan. They are divided into the following sections: Badini, Jamaldini, Gurgeh, Jianzai, Usbakzai, Saruni, Betakzai, Sarai, and Kalagani.

Reki (aka Rek, Rigi, Riki): According to legend, the Reki remained behind in Persia (Iran) when the majority of the Baluch tribes moved into Baluchistan. Many still remain in Iran, but according to one source, some live in central Baluchistan, Pakistan, and southern Afghanistan.

Sanjarani (aka Sinjarani): Located in southern Afghanistan in Nimruz and Helmand Provinces, along the Helmand Valley. The Sanjarani Baluch claim to have originally come from

Baluchistan about 1800. Some are also located in Iran.

Iranian Balochi Tribes

The following are Baluch tribes in Sistan va Baluchestan Province, Iran

Baranzai: Located in Sistan va Baluchestan. They may be of Pashtun origin.

Damani:.Located in Sistan va Baluchestan. The Damani are divided into the Gamshadzai and Yarmuhammadzai sections. Some may also be located in Baluchistan, Pakistan.

Garmshadzai: Arzezai/Jehangirzai/Kerramzai/Muhammadzai.

Hot: Located in along the coast in Sistan va Baluchestan, Iran and also in Makran Division, Baluchistan, Pakistan. As of 1923, they were reported to be the largest Baluch tribe living in Iran. Many of them were nomadic.

Ismailzai: Located in Sistan va Baluchestan. Most are nomadic. The Reki tribe borders them to the east. They are noted to be stricter in their religious observances than their neighbors.

Kurd (aka Kurt): The Kurds are thought to be identifiable with the Kurds currently located in northwestern Iran, northern Iraq, and southern Turkey. They were reportedly induced (presumably by the Shah of Persia) to settle in Sarhad, Sistan va Baluchestan in order to keep the Baluch in check. However, they got along relatively well with the Baluch and conducted raids against Persian as well as Baluch territory. While acknowledging their Kurdish origins, they now refer to themselves as Baluch.

Lashari: The Lasharis are a well-known Baluch tribe in Baluchistan, Pakistan, but some are nomadic and live in Iran around Bampur in Sistan va Baluchestan, Iran. The relationship between the Lasharis in Iran and Pakistan is unknown.

Nausherwani: Though not originally a Baluch tribe, some sources list the Nausherwanis as such or as a Rind Baluch clan. The Nausherwanis listed as Baluch lived in Sistan va Baluchestan. They enjoyed close ties to the Nausherwanis in Baluchistan, Pakistan.

Rais: Located primarily along the Iranian coast in Sistan va Baluchestan. Some also live in Makran Division along the Pakistan coast in Baluchistan.

Reki (aka Rek, Rigi, Riki): As of the late 1800s, the Reki were said to be numerous and scattered over southern Iran and between Kuh-i-Taftan Mountain and the Helmand River. They were primarily herders. Reki are also located in Afghanistan, but their relationship with the Iranian Reki is unknown.

(Major Clan: Natuzai).

Taukhi: Located in Sistan va Baluchestan. Many of the Baluch tribes in Iran hearken back to Taukhi origins. It is unclear if Taukhi is a separate tribe or a hereditary group encompassing several tribes.

(Major Clans: Gurgich/Jamaizai/Saruni).

Culture, Tradition and Social Issues

The Position of the ‘Sardar’

The tribal chief is called Sardar while head of sub-tribe is known as Malik, Takari or Mir. Sardars and Maliks are members of district and other local Jirgas according to their status. The Sardar has a no-holds-barred power command and control of the tribe. He is at the centre of the tribal society and is an example of hospitality, honour and bravery.

It is mandatory for all tribesmen to obey the Orders of the Sardar. It is a oft stated belief that “the Baloch saying the Baloch will swear on the Holy Quran but never on the head of the Sardar.”¹

The basic philosophy of these tribes is of intense loyalty to the Sardar which draws from the latter’s hospitality on the one side and the fear of his revenge on the other.

While the institution of the sardar may have served a vital purpose in the past, in present day context, it is more an impediment to social progress. As assessed by Manzoor Ahmed of Lasbela University, the *“domination of tribal lords on the politics of the province marred the overall development and evolution of the political process that could lead to pave a way for the greater political participation of general masses. Therefore it will be plausible to argue that the current institutional structure is the construction of the political and economic supremacy of*

¹Inside Baluchistan: Political Autobiography of Khan-E-Azam Mir Ahmed Yar Khan Baluch, the ex-ruler of Kalat State by Mir Ahmed Yar Khan Baluch Royal Book Company, Karachi 1975 (Page 188)

tiny elite".² *Such elitist political economy has created "a rent-seeking oligarchy that has consolidated considerable economic and political power and drifted the provincial economy towards more exclusivity"*.³

Language

Despite its scarce population, Balochistan has an uncommon racial and tribal diversity. Most of the people in the cities and towns understand and speak more than two languages. In addition to Balochi, Pashtoo and Brahvi, the majority of the population understand and speak Urdu. In the Kachhi and Sibi districts, people also speak Seraiki and Sindhi. In the provincial capital of Quetta, Urdu, Balochi, Pashtoo, Brahvi and Sindhi is spoken besides Darri and Persian. The Dehwar tribe of Sarawan sub-division in Kalat, also speaks a language derived from Persian.

Culture

Cultural landscape of Balochistan portrays various ethnic groups. Though people speak different languages, there is a similarity in their literature, beliefs, moral order and customs. The cementing factor is religion which provides a base for unity and common social order.

²POLITICAL ECONOMY OF BALOCHISTAN, PAKISTAN: A CRITICAL REVIEW
Manzoor Ahmed, PhD Faculty of Social Sciences, Management, and Information Technology,
Lasbela University, Balochistan, Pakistan and Akhtar Baloch, PhD Department of Public
Administration, University of Karachi, Pakistan at <http://eujournal.org/index.php/esj/article/viewFile/5688/5508>

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Brahvi, Balochi and Pashtoon tribes are known for their hospitality. Guest is accorded is held in high esteem and considered a blessing from God. Better off people even slaughter sheep or goat for their guest. Sometimes, it so happens that where there are more houses, the guest is assumed to be the guest of the whole village. This open heartedness is the loving feature of the tribal people and is not as deep in the city or town dwellers.

An adorable feature of Balochistan culture is faithfulness and sincerity in all relationships. There is no place or respect for unfaithful people in prevalent moral order. If fidelity is reciprocated with disloyalty or betrayal it is never forgotten.

Marriages

Life partners are commonly selected within the family (constituting all close relatives) or tribe. Except a negligible fraction of love marriages, all marriages are arranged. Divorce rate is very low. Marriages are solemnized in presence of Mullah (a religious teacher) and witnesses. Several marriage rituals are celebrated in different tribes. The birth of a male child is taken as a source of pride since he is thought to be the defender of this family and tribe. **In some tribes, the takings of “Valver”, or bride-money paid by the groom to the would-be wife’s family is prevalent.**

Dress

The mode of dress among the Balochi, Pashtoon and Brahvi tribes is very similar having a few minor dissimilarities. Turban is the common headwear of the men. Wide loose shalwar (a bit similar to loose trouser) and knee-long shirts are worn by all. The dress of the woman consists of the typical shirt having a big pocket in front. The shirt normally has embroidery work with embedded small round mirror pieces. Big ‘Dopatta’ or

'Chaddar', a long rectangular piece of cloth cascading down the shoulders and used to cover head, are used by the women.

Festivals

There are religious and social festivals celebrated by the people of Balochistan. Two major religious festivals are Eid-ul-Azha and Eid-ul-Fitr. On these festivals people adorn their houses, wear new dresses, cook special dishes and visit each other. Milad-ul-Nabi, Holy Prophet's birthday is also widely celebrated.

The Sibi festival that traces its roots to Mehergar, an archeological site of ancient human civilization, attracts people from across the country. The tradition of the festival dates back to the 15th century when the-then rulers invited all the tribes in the region to gather in Sibi to discuss their disputes and resolve them through a Jirga. This tradition continued till the 17th century when large caravanserais were built to accommodate the tribal chiefs and their colourful entourages. Sir Robert Sandeman, who was appointed the British Governor General's agent in Balochistan in 1876, encouraged the annual Jirga to avoid bloody feuds between tribes. Today, the festival marks the beginning of spring with tournaments, exhibitions, and trading. Thousands of camels, horses and cattle from distant villages are exhibited for trade. The fair attracts important figures from all over the country, as well as tribesmen from the surrounding areas. Tournaments of various sports, such as football, cricket, badminton, table tennis and hockey, will be part of the festival which will also feature performances by renowned singers and artistes.

Buzkashi is a peculiar festival showing valour of Balochistan people. Buzkashi (literally "goat grabbing" in Persian), also known as kokpar kupkari and ulak tartysh is the Central Asian sport in which horse-mounted players attempt to place a goat or calf carcass in a goal. Traditionally, games could last for

several days, but in its more regulated tournament version, it has a limited match time. **Buzkashi is the national sport of Afghanistan but had been banned under the regime of the Taliban who considered the game to be immoral. The game resumed being played after their ouster.**

Position of Women in Society

The position of women in Balochistan, where men hold the economic and social power, is one of complete subjugation. The tribal chiefs are always males. The literacy rate among females is very low due to various factors like access to schools, poverty and other socio-cultural values. However, in urban areas the trend of female education is encouraging trend because parents take interest in their daughters' education. Consequently, the number of girl students has increased significantly during the last few years.

Women usually believe in Pirs and Molvies for recovery from diseases and refer traditional birth attendants for delivery of babies. Women usually use veil to cover their faces for purdah when they go out of their homes, however, in rural areas poor women work in the farm fields without covering their faces.

Violence against women in the district is hardly reported but it has been observed. Women believe that men have the right to harass and beat them; therefore, they do not seek any legal aid in this respect. Males are dominant in exercising power and the political and religious leaders are mostly males. It often entails subordination of women and seclusion of women from the mainstream social order. However, in most cases women are given share in property and inheritance as per the Islamic Sharia. They are usually unpaid workers as their contribution is not only limited to the domestic activities but they also work in the field during and harvesting seasons. Furthermore, their economic contribution is hardly reported in most of the official statistics.

Religious Minorities in Balochistan

State of Hindus in Balochistan⁴

Hindu community has always remained an integral part of Pakistan. After the partition of subcontinent majority of Hindu population migrated to India, while those who remained in Pakistan adjusted with Muslim population peacefully. Hindu community as like others is patriotic Pakistani. Among them, many big names from this community served Pakistan in distinguished positions. For instance, Justice Rana Bhagwan Das, a prominent Hindu judge has served as the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Danish Kaneria and Anil Dalpat two famous cricketers have played for the National Cricket team of Pakistan, Deepak Parwani, is one of the country's most famous fashion designers and Ashok Kumar a Pakistani soldier laid his life in battlefield in Waziristan in 2013 and was posthumously awarded Tamgha-e-Shujaat.

Plight of Hindus in Pakistan started to deteriorate from the Zia's Islamization policies in the country, prior to that they were living in harmony throughout the country. They were times when the Hindu and Muslim community used to attend weddings and funeral ceremonies of each other. Sadly, now both communities are socially segregated and Hindus are confined to Hindu colonies. **Before year 2000 Hindus were not allowed to join Pakistan army, but later on Pervez Musharraf started the induction process of Hindus in Pakistan's armed forces.** However, Hindus are always questioned for their patriotism to Pakistan, mainly in World cup matches of cricket, whether to support Pakistan or India.

⁴Plight of Hindus in Balochistan Published in The Balochistan Point on January 25, 2016
At <http://thebalochistanpoint.com/plight-of-hindus-in-balochistan/>

Since 2000 Hindus throughout Pakistan are not safe, as 700 families have fled to India. Pakistani Hindus' misery is not limited in one country; when they are in Pakistan they are termed as RAW agents and when they migrate to India, the right wing Indians term them as Pakistani agents. They are the citizen of "no man land" and sandwiched between the Indo-Pak tensions.

Plight of Hindu community in Balochistan is same as in other parts of Pakistan. Kamal Rajput chairman Balochistan Women Skills & Education center Quetta (BWSEC) and a Hindu human rights defender describes that Hindus are more than 25,000 in strength. Hindus are treated as a second class citizen despite being the mercantile class. Thus, they are the soft targets and they are being kidnapped for ransom. **The greater irony is that Hindu school girls after having passed 8 class do not go to school for further education due to the fear of forced conversions.**

Islamiyat is a compulsory subject in Balochistan board and Hindu students study Islamiyat up to class 8th. Nevertheless, Hindu community is not provided education of their own religious books as a subject. **Hindu community does not have separate or specific education system with which they could profess their religious teachings freely among their community members. Hindu community is a regular tax payer to Balochistan government but they are not eligible to get Zakat fund.**

Force conversion is only applied to Hindu community and they are soft targets for extremists. There are only 3 MPAs seats reserved for minorities but the elected politicians from different political parties do not dedicate, donate and invest their funds to the welfare of these marginalized minorities. There is no specific funding, scholarship opportunity for Hindu community. 5% quota for Government jobs is not implemented and even in private sectors like NGOs Hindu community is neglected.

THE GREENING OF A NATION



QUETTA	4,175
SIBI	2,876
JAFFARABAD	6,529
BOLAN	4,463
KHUZDAR	2,962
LASBELA	4,504

Source: Pakistan census 1998. The map shows towns with a population of over 2,000 Hindus. The total population of Hindus in Balochistan is estimated to be 31,000.

5

Hindu Migration from Balochistan⁶

During partition, communal riots were rampant in the subcontinent but Hindus lived harmoniously and peacefully in the princely state of Balochistan, which was under Yar Muhammad Khan, the chief ruler of the Kalat state. He respected the indigenusness of Hindus while giving them economic and religious freedom. Thus, the Hindus did not leave Balochistan during partition of the subcontinent.

Though Hindus lived amicably with the Baloch and Pashtuns, many had to leave Balochistan's Pashtun belt to settle in Baloch-populated areas or migrated to India after partition. In 1941, the Hindu population was 54,000 in Balochistan's Pashtun belt which soon dwindled by as much as 93 per cent after 1947.

⁵Sourced from:

<https://www.google.co.in/search?q=Hindus+in+Balochistan&biw=1536&bih=774&site=webhp&tbn=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiSqpX-A1IzQAhVIpo8KHRLyAIUQ7AkIRg&dpr=1.25#imgcr=luVOlpOB0wmZ-M%3A>

⁶Hindus living 'dangerously' in Balochistan – Zee News Report Sunday, May 19, 2013 at http://zeenews.india.com/news/south-asia/hindus-living-dangerously-in-balochistan_849561.html

Notezai, quoting a prominent Hindu intellectual Sham Kumar, writes that in contemporary times “Hindus are now facing a situation worse in Baloch residing places than they had to face in the past living in Pashtun residing places”.

“Because the Baloch elders, who would show great respect for their neighbourhood Hindus, are no longer living in this world, or they have become very old.”

For Balochistan’s economic prosperity and development, Hindus have built schools, libraries and hospitals. Many of the educated Hindus have been offering services in health, education and other sectors.

The Daily Times article said it is profoundly shocking that Hindus are now living dangerously in Balochistan. They cannot even perform their religious practices freely due to the nightmarish situation where they interminably fear for their lives, faith, honour and property.”

“Hindus, in spite of being Balochistan’s peaceful and largest minority, are running from their old `motherland` to escape persecution, because their lives are in a precarious and worsened condition these days.”⁷

“In Balochistan, it was the 1990s period that turned into a great conflagration for Hindus. After that, gradually the Hindus` manifold problems, whether it was abduction, religious persecution, migration or killing, all of them have been intensifying.”⁸

In Balochistan, there has been mass Hindu migration from the districts of Kalat, Khuzdar, Quetta, Mastung, Lasbela, Hub, Nushki, and Dalbandin.

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⁸ Hindus living `dangerously` in Balochistan – Zee News Report Sunday, May 19, 2013 at http://zeenews.india.com/news/south-asia/hindus-living-dangerously-in-balochistan_849561.html

“Many Hindu families have migrated to India, inside Pakistan to Karachi, and interior Sindh. But they are economically living a pathetic life in these places. There are many more Hindus who still utter the words `migration` and `insecurity` in Balochistan.”⁹

The government officials, on the other hand, say majority of Hindus who have been migrating from Balochistan or the country are economically sound. They see a bright future for their children in India.

“But it is worth mentioning here that 90 per cent of the Hindus of Balochistan are unsound economically. They cannot afford to leave their indigenous places and settle somewhere else, especially India.”¹⁰

Nearly 35 Hindus were killed during former dictator General Pervez Musharraf`s regime where he launched the fifth military operation against Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, the former chief minister of Balochistan. Bugti used to keep the Hindus in proximity to his legendary fort in Dera Bugti to safeguard them from criminal elements. “That is why many Hindus, mainly women and children, were killed and sustained severe injuries in the assault against Nawab Bugti on March 17, 2005.”¹¹

Major Hindu Shrines in Balochistan

In Balochistan, Hindus have two ancient sacred places -- the Hinglaj Shrine in Lasbela district, and Kali Devi, dedicated to Goddess Kali, in Kalat town.

Hinglaj Mata Temple: Also known as Hinglaj Devi, Hingula Devi and Nani Mandir, is a Hindu temple in Hinglaj, on the Makran coast in the Lasbela district. It is one of the Shakti

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Peethas of the goddess Sati and located in a mountain cavern on the banks of the Hingol River. The shrine is located in a small natural cave. There is a low mud altar. There is no man-made image of the goddess. A small shapeless stone smeared with Sindoor is worshipped as Hinglaj Mata. It is situated 250 kilometres to the north-west of Karachi, at the end of a range of Kheerthar hills, in the Makran desert stretch, on the west bank of Hingol River.

Kali Devi Temple at Kalat : Is a Hindu mandir dedicated to Goddess Kali that dates back to pre-Islamic era of South Asia. It has been known in earlier times as Kalat-i-Seva (from a legendary Hindu king) and Kalat-i Nicari which connects it with the Brahui Speaking Baloch tribe of Nicari , which is generally accepted as belonging to the oldest branch of the indigenous Brahois. Interestingly, the town of Kalat is said to have been founded by and named Qalat-e Sewa (Sewa's Fort), after Sewa, a legendary hero of the local Baloch.

Balochistan's Christian Community¹²

The Christian communities, majority of who belong to the protestant church, are living in Quetta, Loralai, and Sibi. Quetta contains a big number of them. The three Churches have hundreds coming to Church services every Sunday.

The Christians community of Balochistan is economically not much advanced. Most of them belong to lower or lower middle class without having made any significant advancement in trade, finance, or business. Those in service belong largely to medical and education professions. "In the promotion of medical and education in Balochistan" said a sociologist, "Christian's provided enormous service." In his analysis, a larger number of nursing staff all over civil hospitals in the province are Christians".¹³

¹²Based on Minorities in Balochistan By Professor Mansoor Akbar Kund at <http://baloch-homeland.weebly.com/facts-article8.html>

¹³Based on Minorities in Balochistan By Professor Mansoor Akbar Kund at <http://baloch-homeland.weebly.com/facts-article8.html>

The mission/Christian hospital Quetta is one of the leading hospitals with a nursing school for Mission hospital in Pakistan. Similarly, services rendered by the community in the field of education are distinct, particularly in schools. Three of the famous schools; Mission High school, Grammar School, and Saint Joseph High School and St Marry. There is one in Zhob: Trench Middle School. They all started functioning before partitions. A large number of civil and military servants from Balochistan studied in these schools.

According to an ex-Attorney General of Pakistan from Balochistan, “When the province was lagging behind schooling, the Christians community-run school catered for educational needs of the people, and enhanced the cause of education.”

The community is active politically. The community’s political interests are served by one MPA in Balochistan Assembly.

Provincial Administration¹⁴

Balochistan's provincial assembly consists of 65 members out of which 11 seats are reserved for women while 3 are reserved for minorities.

The present system under the Local Government Act 2010 is similar to BLGO 1980 and stresses upon the rural-urban division. The local government institutions in urban areas include the Municipal Committees, headed by chairman and ward members and their size depends on the number of people living in the area. The Government is represented by one Chief Officer, who assists the chairman and members in routine working. There is a special representation of women, peasant/workers and minorities in the district.

Under the Baluchistan Local Government Act (BLGA) 2010, the Union Councils constitute a District Council, in which each Union Council is represented by 1 member in the District Council. In addition, there is special representation of women (33%) and workers and peasants (5%). The Union Councils are supposed to undertake the development works related to public health, education, agricultural development and economic welfare, articles of food and drink, issuance of birth and death certificates. (At present, they are not functioning as Local Government elections have not been held under BLGA 2010).

¹⁴Based on Government of Balochistan site at http://www.balochistan.gov.pk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=836&Itemid=1087

and UNDP Report at:

http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/library/hiv_aids/development-advocate-pakistan/local-government-acts-2013-and-province-local-government-relatio.html

The provisions of the BGLA 2010 define the Constitution of Local Councils as follows:

(1) As soon as may be, the following local councils shall be constituted: -

- (a) A Union Council for each Union;
- (b) A District Council for each District;
- (c) A Municipal Committee for each Municipality;
- (d) A Municipal Corporation for each City;
- (e) A Metropolitan Corporation for the Capital City.

(2) Government may, by notification, declare an area: -

- (a) Comprising a village or a number of villages having, as far as possible, an aggregate population between 7000 and 15000, excluding its urban areas and the cantonment areas, to be a Union Council;
- (b) Comprising the area of a revenue district, excluding its urban areas and the cantonment areas, to be a District Council;
- (c) Comprising an urban area having a population exceeding 15000 but not exceeding one lac to be a Municipal Committee;
- (d) Comprising an urban area having a population exceeding one lac but not exceeding five lac to be a Municipal Corporation; and
- (e) Comprising an urban area having population exceeding five lac to be a Metropolitan Corporation.

(3) The notification issued under sub-section (2) shall also specify the extent and limits of the areas comprising in each local council.

(4) The local area comprising a local council shall, as far as possible, be compact, contiguous and constitute a territorial unity.

The Balochistan Government dissolved its previous system in January 2010, and the Baluchistan Local Government Act 2010 (BLGA) was passed by the Provincial Assembly and signed into law by the Governor on 11 May 2010.

Although the legislation was in place, the provincial government did not take any other concrete steps to implement the local government legislation until 2013.

In September 2013, the Balochistan Government framed rules for conducting elections. Balochistan was the first of the four provinces to successfully hold local government elections under the new framework on 7 December 2013.

Powers of Local Councils

The institution of local government is essentially established to carry out development activities at local levels and provide basic civic amenities to citizens. Local councils in Balochistan are also mandated with these functions.

To achieve desired results, it is essential that local government institutions have sufficient autonomy in political, administrative and financial matters. Although the local councils may not be ideally vested with these powers under the local government framework, there are no major restrictions on

their functions as local bodies. Some of the powers enjoyed by local councils are:

- Preparing the Council's Annual budget;
- Levying taxes, fees, rates, rents, tolls, charge and surcharges as specified in the law subject to provincial government's approval
- Making and implementing development schemes for the local area
- Establishing a local fund to which all the revenues taxes

etc. Received by the local government may be credited.

- Local councils are responsible for providing and maintaining infrastructure and civic amenities; implementing development plans in the social sector and for performing regulatory functions.

Under the existing legal framework, the Government of Balochistan has authority to exercise general supervision and control over the local councils. The Government can exercise this authority in a number of ways, including inspection of local councils, audit of accounts, issuing directions, dissolution and suspension of local councils, control over budget and removal of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Members of the Councils.

Electoral Systems, Structures and Compositions

The local Government system in Balochistan has a rural-urban divide; separate institutions have been designed for rural and urban populations of the province. Local elections in Balochistan are party-based and independent candidates without party affiliation can also compete.

Local Bodies in Rural Balochistan

There are two tiers of local government in rural Balochistan. **The Union Council is the lowest tier and the District Council is the highest. The area of a Union Council is divided into single member constituencies called wards. The District Council is made up of several Union Councils.**

Constituency composition Number of general seats:

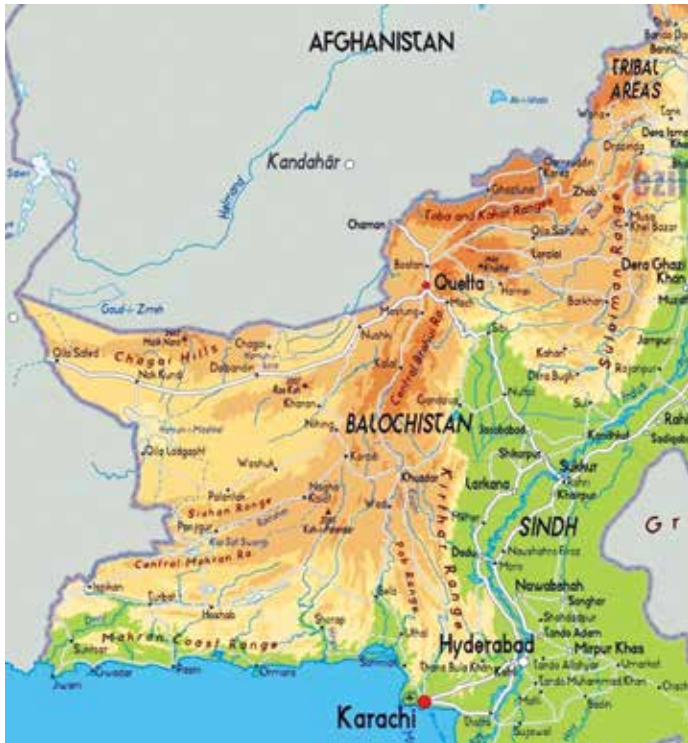
Union Council 7,000-15,000 population 7-15 general members, one for approximately every 1,000-1,500 people

District Council The area of a revenue district excluding urban and cantonment areas Equal to the number of Union Councils in the District.

On Election Day, a voter in rural Balochistan casts two ballots, one for the general member to represent his/her ward in the Union Council and one for the general member of his/her District Council. General members for each council are elected by simple majority in single-member constituencies.

Directly elected general representatives in the Union Council and the District Council then nominate and elect special representatives to reserved seats for non-Muslims, women, peasants and workers for their respective councils.

Balochistan's Geography



Balochistan is located at the eastern edge of the Iranian plateau and in the difficult to define border region between Southwest, Central, and South Asia. Its land is extremely inhospitable. The most important explanation for the increasing interest in Balochistan exists in its geo-strategic importance. On its east and west are high mountains of the Toba kakar Range, the Central Brahui Range and the Siahan range while the Sulaiman Mountains dominate the northeast corner and the Bolan Pass is a natural route into Afghanistan towards Kandahar. Much of the province south of the Quetta region is sparse desert terrain with pockets of inhabitable towns mostly near rivers and streams.

The Southern Region is known as Makran. A region in the centre of the province is known as Kalat. The Central Makran Mountain ranges are generally bare and rocky are not very high but form large and long massives, strongly folded and west-east oriented. The valleys are numerous, narrow and deep, subject to sudden floods. The low ones receive low precipitation and are almost uninhabited, except for some oases such as Pidarak. The two northern regions enclose the Kech and Nihing valleys. The Southern Makran Coastal Range is however lower but more complex, being cut by deep river valleys, particularly by the Shadi Khawr and the Dasht.

The Coastal Area: On the Coastal area, barren mountains alternate with broad plains and provide a more favourable habitation for human settlement. **A geographic characteristic of the Makran coast is a the slow progress of the coast which occurs due to the swell and the beach- drifting bring large quantities of bio-clastic sands to the coast; the coastal area receiving a lot of fluvial deposits, mainly fine silts, particularly in the Dasht and Basol deltas; and the raising of this coast following the plunge of the African plate below the Eurasiatic plate. The coastal area has been very inhospitable, mainly due to the Dasht, Shadi and Basol not being perennial as also with gypsum and salt existing at shallow depth.** Farming is done only at the foot of the main mountains where there are non salty silts and run-off that can be collected behind levees.

Inland Basins: There are two distinct typologies of basins in Balochistan:

(a) The Nihing and Kech Valleys which are constituted by a long rectilinear west-syncline, between two broad mountain ranges from which huge glacis slope down, and are cut by numerous and fast flowing 'wadis'. On the alluvial plain flow the Kech and some of its tributaries like the Nihing (from the west) and the Gish (from the east).

(b) The Dry Basins are broad depressions that are devoid of perennial run-off (Kulwa, Kulanch, and Talar); when rivers exist they play only a secondary role. These basins are synclines or have been hollowed out in soft rocks, such as the Dasht basin, and are characterised by soft silt sediments, often very thick, laid down mainly by rain-wash and wind.

Mountains: Baluchistan has a number of mountain ranges which although barren are rich with mineral resources. These ranges form natural borders with Iran and Afghanistan. The passes through these mountains connect Pakistan with Afghanistan.



The Major Mountain Ranges in Balochistan are:

The Chaghai Range: The Chaghi Range forms a triangular border with Afghanistan and Iran. The famous Gonshero Pass is located here. The Chaghi Range is rich with minerals like copper, gold and sulphur.

The Central Brahui Range: The 360 km long Brahui Range is the southern branch of Himalayas lying in the central Baluchistan. It meets the Sulaiman Range at Quetta. The range is covered with Juniper Forests. Here Limestone is found in abundance. The Khilafat Peak is the highest peak of this range with a height of 3,487 meters. The major passes through this

range are Bolan Pass, Harnai Pass and Mula Pass.

The Suleiman Range: Known locally as Kōh-e Sulaymān, are the southern extension of the Hindu Kush mountain system, located in the Zabul, Kandahar and Loya Paktia regions of Afghanistan, and in the southern Federally Administered Tribal Areas (South Waziristan and Frontier Region Dera Ismail Khan), most of northern Balochistan, and some of southwestern Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan. The Sulaimans form the eastern edge of the Iranian Plateau where the Indus River separates it from the Subcontinent. Bordering the Sulaimans to the north are the arid highlands of Central Hindu Kush or Paropamisadae, whose heights extend up to 6,000 metres (20,000 ft). The highest peak of the Sulaimans is Takht-e-Sulaiman or “Throne of Solomon” at 3,487 metres (11,440 ft) and in Balochistan, its highest peak is Zarghun Ghar at 3,578 metres (11,739 ft) near Quetta city, while the second-highest is Khilafat Hill at 3,475 metres (11,401 ft) in Ziarat district and is famous for its Juniper forests. The 400 km long Suleiman Range lies in a north to south direction parallel to the Indus River. Juniper Forests are found in the northern side of the range where as the southern side is barren. Minerals like Limestone and Sandstone are found in this area.

The Toba Kakar Range: The Toba Kakar range lies in the north and forms a border with Afghanistan. Unlike most of the Baluchistan ranges, it has vegetation in the form of juniper, pistachio and tamarisk trees.

Other mountain ranges in Balochistan are:

The Bangulzai Hills: A low mountain range located in the Kalat District.

Dilband Range: Located in the Kalat District, is an important source of iron ore and has reserves of 165 million tons.

Harboi Range: Located in the Kalat District and unlike most of the mountains in the area, this range contains juniper trees and picturesque scenery

Khawaja Amran Range: Is an offshoot of the Toba Kakar Range of mountains.

Kirthar Mountains: Are located in the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh, extending southward for about 310 km from the Mula River in east-central Balochistan to Cape Monze on the Arabian Sea. They form the boundary between the lower Indus Plain (to the east) and southern Balochistan (to the west) and consist of a series of parallel rock hill ridges rising from 4,000 ft (1,200 m) in the south to nearly 8,000 ft (2,400 m) in the north. **The inhabitants of the Kirthar Mountains are chiefly Brahui, Sindhi, and Baloch tribes, on both sides, who subsist by flock grazing. Major Baloch tribes of Kirthar are Burfat, Gabol, Marri, Bozdar, Lund, Nohani, Bugti, Lashari, and others.**

Nagau Range: A small range located in the Kalat District.

The Siahan Range: Consist of two ridges:-

(a) **The Southern Range:** Runs west-south-west from a point near Shirezaon the north a parallel one starts from the desert east of Washuk in Kharan District and tends westward toward Dizzak in Iran, where it is known as the Siahan or the Siahan koh. It is from this range that the name for the whole mass has been taken. It forms the main ridge at the western extremity of the mass, but at the eastern end, a more southerly range predominates. The eastern end of the range is variously known merely as Band, or as the Kharan-rakshan Lath, while on the west and north of Panjgur it is known as the Koh-e-Sabz. The Koh-e-Sabz is only well defined to the west of the Korkian Pass, from which place it gradually rises to a height of nearly 5400 ft before it is crossed by the defile known as the Tank-e-Grawag. On the other hand, the Kharan- Rakshan Lath descends gradually toward Jang-ja-e-gajiun in Panjgur, and forms the hilly country between the latter place and the Koh-e-Sabz.

(b) **The Northern Ridge**: Runs between Washuk and the valley of Palantak torrent is known as the Cher Dem in the Washuk Niabat of the Kharan District. Its height is about 5000 ft. at its western end a well known peak Hetai, which lies to the west of the Tank-e-zurrati through which the Mashkel River breaks northward to the Hamun Mashkel.



The Bolan Pass (in 1839 and in the present day)

Zamuri Hills: Are a mountain range located in the Kalat District.

Zarghun Ghar: Known locally as Zarghoon Mountains, is a mountain range located in the east of Quetta District. The base of the Zarghoon Ghar up to Ziarat is densely covered by Juniper trees in a forest of about 200,000 acres.

Valleys

Balochistan has many valleys which not only have fruit bearing orchards but are also favorite picnic spots. These are:

The Pishin Valley: Situated at a distance of 50 km from Quetta is a valley of orchards. Superior quality grapes, cherries, almonds, plums, apricots and apples are grown here. With a railway station and an airport nearby, the fruit harvest can easily be transported to other cities. Another attraction of Pishin valley is the beautiful man made lake, Lake Bund Khushdil Khan.

The Urak Valley: Situated 21 km from Quetta, Urak Valley is another place where orchards are found in abundance. Fruits grown here are apples, apricots, plums and peaches. A waterfall at the other end of the valley makes it a favorite picnic spot.

The Ziarat Valley: A favourite destination for tourists, the Ziarat Valley is a valley of juniper forests, singing gorges, orchards and water falls. Another claim to fame is the Ziarat Residency, the place where Jinnah spent the last days of his life. Established by English Colonial rulers in 1861, the residency is surrounded by thousands years old ancient juniper trees. It was however burnt to ashes in a bomb attack allegedly by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) on June 15, 2013 but has since been restored.



Ziarat Juniper Forest

The Zhob Valley: Situated at an altitude of 4,500 feet above sea level. Zhob means “bubbling water” as when there is no drought, the water tends to spring up from the underground springs, Kareez. Due to its proximity to Afghanistan, the British took its control in 1889. They developed an irrigation system, planted orchards, and opened a school and dispensaries. Fort Sandeman, a castle built during the British era on a cliff in the northern part of the valley still stands. .

Mineral Resources in Balochistan

Balochistan possesses large amounts of metallic and non-metallic minerals, as detailed below:

Coal: The Duki Tehsil in the Loralai District of Balochistan has large reserves of high quality Coal, the extraction of which is the main business of the area. More than 80% of local population is directly related to the coal business, which is however entirely in private hands with the Pashtun tribes of Duki including Nasar, Tareen, Luni, Dumar besides other being in the business. **There are about 1000 mines functioning and more than 3000 MT of coal of different quality is transported to Punjab for use in Brick kilns or Cement factories there.**

Iron Ore: Chaghi has an estimated reserves of 200 million tonnes of iron ore near Johan in Dilband area of Mastung district.

Chromite: Killa Saifullah, Lasbela, Khuzdar, Kharan and Chaghi districts have sizable deposits of chromite reserves.

Barytes: Large deposits of barytes are located near Khuzdar with an estimated reserve of over 2.00 million tones. Scientific mining as well as grinding of this mineral started in 1976. Almost the entire production of barytes is procured by the Oil and Natural Gas Development Company of Pakistan (OGDCL) and by other Oil drilling companies.

Sulphur: Koh-e-Sultan in District Chaghi has substantial sulphur deposits with the three main deposits being clustered around the Southern half of the extinct volcano, Koh-e-Sultan. These deposits are of fumaroles origin and native Sulphur is found in cracks and as impregnation in volcanic tuffs.

Marble: Chaghi also has large commercially exploitable deposits of marble at various places beginning Dalbandin and extending to the borders of Iran. Some of the marble deposits are found at Zardkan, Siah-Chang, Jhulli, Patkok, Maskichah,

Zeh, Chilgazi and Buttak, all close to the Afghanistan border.

Onyx: Reserves of a superior quality of Onyx, the dark green marble, are found in Chaghi and of other good quality in the Bolan, Lasbela and Khuzdar districts.

Quartzite: There has been a recent discovery of Quartzite reserves in the Lasbela district.

Limestone: Limestone of Cretaceous age, 300 to 50 meters thick, is widely found across Balochistan. Several hundred meters thick layers of limestone are found in Quetta and Kalat besides in the Harnai, Sor Range, and Spintangi areas.

Sui Gas Field

The Sui name has become synonymous with natural gas in Pakistan. Located at a distance of about 650 kilometres (km) from Karachi in Dera Bugti, Balochistan, Sui is Pakistan Petroleum Limited's flagship gas field. As a major production facility, Sui Gas Field (SGF) hosts the country's largest gas compressor station and a purification plant.

At the time of its discovery, SGF was considered among the largest natural gas fields in the world with recoverable reserves of around 12 Tcf. Despite diminishing reserves over time, SGF still remains one of the largest natural gas producing field in Pakistan, contributing substantially to the country's requirements with daily production of around 438 MMscf.

In order to meet contractual delivery demand for gas sales, drilling and work overs are planned at SGF to counter obsolescence and enhance production efficiencies. To this end, Sui-96(M) and Sui-94(U) were drilled, completed and commissioned successfully while drilling of Sui-95 (Deep-2) is in progress. Work overs of Sui-33(U/M), Sui-85(U) and Sui-91(U) and deepening of Sui-80 for SML were also completed successfully.

Discovery	1952
Recoverable Reserves	11,938 Bcf*
Daily Average Production	438 MMscfd gas; 56 bbl condensate**
Producing Wells	85

Development Indices

Balochistan encompasses 43 percent of Pakistan's land spread over 347,190 kilometers; however, possesses only five percent of country's population. It has huge untapped natural resource reserves (oil, gas, gold, copper and others and yet is the poorest and the least developed province of the federation of Pakistan, with the lowest literacy rate (29.81), fewest educational institutions, lowest Gender Parity Index (GPI).

In spite of its vast area, abundant natural resources, unique geographical significance and being rich in mineral resources, the Baloch does not get due advantages from these resources leading to a strong sense of political deprivation among Baloch people.

As per a 2011 Report of the Institute of Public Policy, over 90% of the settlements in Balochistan have no access to clean potable drinking water or medical facilities and rural illiteracy exceeds 90%. **Balochistan's per capita income is less than half of the country's average meaning that an average a Baloch is likely to be twice as poor as his counterpart living in any of the other three provinces** Ironically, even within the province of Balochistan "an average Baloch is twice as poor as an average Punjabi, Pashtun, or Hazara resident of the province. Even in the capital city of Quetta, less than one third of the households of the provincial metropolis are actually connected with the government water supply system and receive between 1-2 hours of water supply in 24 hours. The education system in the province is so inferior that those who can afford it would prefer to send their children to educational institutions outside

the province; Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore or Peshawar. The same is true of medical facilities in the province; with a little affordability most people prefer to take their sick loved ones to Karachi or elsewhere for medical treatment”¹⁵.

In a Report titled ‘Balochistan Development Issues and Prospects’ compiled by the Staff of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/ the World Bank and published by the ‘Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Balochistan Multi Donor Trust Fund’ highlights the state of development in the province in respect of crucial development aspects.

Water

While some 87 percent of Pakistan’s total available water is contributed by the Indus Basin Irrigation System (IBIS), **Balochistan lies at its periphery and relies largely on non-perennial and some perennial sources of water (from IBIS and outside IBIS)**. While Pakistan’s water economy is highly integrated, allowing for risk pooling, Balochistan’s water economy is highly segmented, with 18 river basins accounting for its vast territory. Rural livelihoods are dependent on precipitation and these were severely affected during drought of 1998–2005. Crops can fail after a seasonal drought, whereas livestock and orchards are vulnerable to persistent drought.

The key issues in the water sector are flood water accounting for almost two-thirds of total available water, but only 40 percent being utilized. The availability of flood water in all the river basins is itself extremely variable. Groundwater constitutes around 4 percent of total water available, but is an over-utilized

¹⁵POLITICAL ECONOMY OF BALOCHISTAN, PAKISTAN: A CRITICAL REVIEW
Manzoor Ahmed, PhD Faculty of Social Sciences, Management, and Information Technology,
Lasbela University, Balochistan, Pakistan and Akhtar Baloch, PhD Department of Public
Administration, University of Karachi, Pakistan at <http://eujournal.org/index.php/esj/article/viewFile/5688/5508>.

and depleting resource. An aspect that has been highlighted is regarding the **subsidy on the electricity tariff for tube wells (now running at about Rs 8 billion a year) that has resulted in a wasteful use both of water and energy. The subsidy creates a disjunction between social and private profitabilities - there are losses to society as a whole, but financial gains to individual farmers.**¹⁶

Domestic Water Supply

The key issues relating to domestic water supply are the following:

- (a) Uneven access and uneven quality of domestic water;
- (b) The operation and maintenance costs of public-sector water schemes are high and unaffordable for communities;
- (c) Inefficient institutional structure due to multiple players (Public Health Engineering; Local Government and Rural Development; WASA; and NGOs) being involved in the provision of water and responsibilities between them being unclear.

Agriculture

Productivity on Balochistan's cropped area is constrained by Lack of adequate irrigation infrastructure, reliance on family labor for farm operations, low quality seeds, lack of fertilizers and pesticides in remote areas, outdated technology, low public funding besides weak institutions. It is also affected by climate change which causes a shift in the boundary of crops in the hot regions because of the rise in temperature and a rise in crop water requirement, again because of an increase in temperature (which will put further pressure on groundwater resources).

¹⁶World Bank Report No: ACS2258 "ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN : BALOCH-ISTAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT - DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND PROSPECTS" January 2013.

Health

Balochistan's health indicators are the worst in the country. Health outcomes at all levels are poor; for example, the province suffers from significant higher neo-natal mortality rates, infant mortality rates, and under-5 mortality rates than the other provinces. The reasons for Balochistan's poor health outcomes are a combination of weak governance, underdeveloped human resources, poor infrastructure, and the challenging physical and demographic characteristics of the province, namely, a small population scattered over a very large area. **There is a shortage of female staff in the health sector; in Balochistan's conservative society it leads to major reluctance on the part of women to use the public sector health facilities.** Supervision in medical institutions is weak, and is made more difficult by the remoteness of many of these facilities—an estimated 25 percent of the facilities are located between 15 and 100 km from roads—thereby making access onerous and expensive; in many areas, therefore, it tends not to be done.

Deficiencies in medical infrastructure are reflected in the low use of the facilities. Only 43 percent of women in Balochistan availed themselves of antenatal care services, and an even lower proportion (18 percent) of postnatal care; these figures are well below the national average. Balochistan also reported 37 percent of all confirmed polio cases in Pakistan.¹⁷

Fisheries

The fisheries of Balochistan can be divided into four main sub-sectors: (i) marine capture; (ii) brackish coastal water (i.e., coastal aquaculture); (iii) inland open water capture and inland closed water capture (i.e., freshwater aquaculture),

¹⁷World Bank Report No: ACS2258 "ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN : BALOCHISTAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT - DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND PROSPECTS"
January 2013

(iv) Marine Capture Fisheries. The sector provides direct employment to an estimated 400,000 people, and an equal number in ancillary industries such as marketing, boat building, etc. In coastal areas, fisheries can account for up to 70 percent of the local employment. Fish product exports from Pakistan, which ranks fourth amongst its export commodities, has a significant share originating from Balochistan. Almost all the fish produced in Balochistan come from marine capture fisheries along the 750 km coastline of the province.

Alternate Energy Sources

Apart from natural gas, Balochistan possesses a considerable potential for the development of alternative sources of energy, principally wind and solar.

Wind Energy: Balochistan's wind resource potential was estimated to be more than 20,000 MW (or roughly equal to the total installed generating capacity of Pakistan in 2011) with three regions of the country—including the Nokkundi region in the north-western corner and ridges in the Chagai area of Balochistan having significant potential for developing wind energy resources.

Solar Energy: Balochistan also ranks very high, in fact the highest in the country, as regards the potential for **solar energy** with around 40 percent of the land area of Balochistan receives direct solar radiation with an energy potential of more than 6 kWh per square meter per day, while the rest of the province receives direct solar radiation with an energy potential of 4.5 kWh per square meter per day.

Historical Perspective

Historical factors have shaped Baloch nationalism and the present crisis in the province. One of the historic claims to fame is that their ancestors defeated the army of Alexander the Great as he tried to make his way back to Greece from India.¹⁸ This is corroborated by the Greek Historian Arrian who, in his detailed account of Alexander the Great's "march through Gedrosia" and his "descent to the Ocean Sea" in 325 BC, where his loyal admiral Nearchos was waiting for him. Arrian's account tells us of the sufferings which attended Alexander's action and of the losses his Army had to suffer there, which provides an insight into the forbidding nature of the ground.

Some Baloch intellectuals claim that the name 'Baluch' has been derived from 'Balus', the King of Babylon, who is also known as Nimrod.¹⁹

Three Baloch leaders brought significant changes to Baloch society during the three centuries preceding British Raj.

Mir Chakar Khan Rind: Established the tribal confederacy who managed to shake off the rule of the Mughals. He established Sibi and made it his capital, whose population grew to 100,000. Being a poet and a patron of learning, Mir Chakar promoted cultural activities. However civil war between the Rinds and the Lasharis weakened his rule and after the invasion of Balochistan by Arghuns, Mir Chakar along with

¹⁸'The Idea of Pakistan' by Stephen Philip Cohen (Vanguard, 2005) Page 219.

¹⁹'Searchlights on Baloches and Balochistan' by Justice Mir Khuda Baksh Bijarani Marri Baloch (Royal Book Company, 1974) Page 8.

his Lashkar proceeded to Lahore, where he died at the age of ninety-six. Baloch tribes were unable to restore a modicum of political unity until the Ahmedzai tribe set up the Kalat Confederacy in 1666.

Abdullah Khan, the 4th Khan of Kalat: During the 18th century, claimed allegiance of Baloch tribes from Kandahar to Bandar Abbas. He however did not bring the area under his military control and had to even pay a tribute to the Iranian monarch to forestall an invasion.

Nasir Khan, 6th Khan of Kalat: Ruled for almost half a century since 1741 who created an Army of 25000 men and 1000 camels, set up a 'bureaucratic administration' with a Wazir and improved infrastructure such as roads. Once his Army was reorganised, Nasir Khan took on the Afghans militarily in 1758 whereafter Kalat enjoyed a sovereign status until the arrival of the British. **Baloch nationalists look to Mir Nasir Khan as an inspiration for independent statehood in much the same way as Sikh ethno-nationalists harked back to the achievements of his contemporary, Ranjit Singh.**²⁰

The British in Balochistan

Balochistan is one of those strategically important tracts of land which were annexed by the British for reasons of high 'imperial policy'.²¹ This was accomplished in two phases – a 'punitive' phase from 1839 to 1876 during which they sought to rein in the restless tribes and a second phase from 1876 to 1947 that was marked by peace.

The First Phase: Involved two fierce confrontations in which the Baloch suffered heavily. The British took a position that if the Baloch Chiefs chose to make peace, it would only be on an unconditional surrender by them. Punitive actions against the

²⁰'Pakistan: Modern History' by Ian Talbot, (Vanguard,1999) page 225.

²¹'Pakistan : The First Twelve Years' by Mazhar Ali Khan (OUP, 1996) p 358.

Khan of Kalat resulted in treaties to guarantee British colonial power, freedom of military movement and unimpeded trade.

The Second Phase: Was one of relative peace on account of the policy adopted by Sir Robert Sandeman, the first Chief Commissioner of Baluchistan. After an initial setback, Sandeman re-entered Baluchistan with a large force in 1876 and was able to settle the dispute between the tribes and the Khan without use of military force. The Khan of Kalat entered into a treaty to be loyal to the British and acknowledge their sovereignty.²²

Lord Lytton, Viceroy from 1876-80 recognised the strategic significance of Baluchistan and persuaded the Khan of Kalat to cede Quetta to the British for setting up a military cantonment there.

Sandeman used the tribal leaders by supporting them financially, entrusting them with administrative functions, decorating them with fine titles, enticing them with privileges and guaranteeing their position even in the line of succession. He used inter-tribal tensions to build up other influential personalities in the tribe, who if necessary, he could use as instruments to exert influence.²³

Khanate of Kalat

There is a divergence of opinion on the relations between the British and the Khanate of Kalat. While one view is that the relations were based on 'amity, through agreements and treaties' the contrary view is that there was a 'forced subjugation' of the Kalat State by the British. After the occupation of Kalat State by the British they eventually recognised Nasir Khan II as the ruler of Kalat in 1841 and signed a treaty which mentioned that "British troops could be stationed in Kalat territory". Other treaties were signed subsequently that provided an

²²'The Baloch Problem' by Imtiaz Ali (Pakistan Horizon Vol 58. No. 2 (April 2005) (page 44)

²³-do-

opportunity for the British to station their forces on British Balochistan territory en route to Afghanistan. In return for these concessions Kalat would receive handsome subsidies and guarantees of tribal autonomy. The Treaty of 1876 was the most important one of these.

The Treaty of 1876 renewed and reinforced the earlier Treaty of 1854 and importantly, in Article **3 stated that “the British Government to respect the Independence of Kalat”**.

In early 20th century, Baloch middle class begun to mobilise a political struggle. They established the Anjuman-e-Ithad-e-Balochistan (the Association for the Unity of Balochistan), which was a political party and a social organisation with the purported aims of ending the colonisation of Balochistan from the British, unifying Balochistan, abolishing the extant Sardari system and establishing an independent united Balochistan.

After the Persian occupation of Western Balochistan in 1928, the Kalat State National Party was formed in 1931. Both the Anjumane-Ithad-e-Balochistan and Kalat State National Party (KSNP) were secular in nature and orientation, and sought a unified democratic Balochistan.

It was during the 1930s, as the first indicators of the end of British Rule began to be heard, it became incumbent on the Khan of Kalat and other Baloch leaders to decide on the future status of Balochistan. Unlike other states that were in subordinate alliance to the Viceroy, Kalat along with Nepal maintained its treaty relations directly with British crown. Moreover, while the Teaty of 1876 allowed the British to operate in balochistan, they pledged not to violate the sovereignty of Kalat State.

At Independence

Baluchistan consisted of four princely states named Kalat, Lasbela, Kharan & Makran. On 12th August 1947, on the very eve of British withdrawal, the Khan of Kalat declared Kalat State to be an Independent State. The Government of Kalat

State Act 1947 was promulgated as the new constitution of Balochistan. Under the constitution Balochistan would establish a representative system of governance with aiming to connect the people of Balochistan with administration and other state machinery of Kalat. The legislature was composed of two houses: the Upper House and the Lower House. Under the Act, shortly after the independence elections were held for both the houses. KNSP won the majority seats in the House of Commons.²⁴

The meetings between the Viceroy, as the Crown's Representative, Jinnah and the Khan of Kalat resulted in a communique on August 11, 1947, which stated that:

The Government of Pakistan recognizes Kalat as an independent sovereign state in treaty relations with the British Government with a status different from that of Indian States.

Legal opinion will be sought as to whether or not agreements of leases will be inherited by the Pakistan Government.

Meanwhile, a Standstill Agreement has been made between Pakistan and Kalat.

Discussions will take place between Pakistan and Kalat at Karachi at an early date with a view to reaching decisions on Defence, External Affairs and Communications.

Quaid-i-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founding father of Pakistan and the country's first Governor General, himself began to persuade the Khan to merge the territory of Balochistan with Pakistan.

²⁴Extracted from 'The Balochistan Problem' by Imtiaz Ali (Pakistan Horizon, Vol. 58, No. 2, April 2005) Pages 41-62

When Kalat initially was adamant to become a part of newly independent country, Pakistan then directly approached sub-ordinate states of Makran, Kharan and Lasbela to join the country bypassing the state of Kalat, thereby effectively splitting the Baloch state. The Khan thereafter succumbed to the pressures of Pakistan, resulting in the Agreement of Accession on 27th March 1948 by which Balochistan became a province of the federation of Pakistan.

Post-1947 Conflicts

The Balochs were reluctant to join Pakistan and the Ruler of Kalat, Mir Ahmed Yar Khan declared independence on 15 August 1947. He declared independence claiming the treaty of 1876 signed by Kalat with the British was of the same status as between India and Nepal.

The First Conflict (1948)

The first conflict occurred in 1948 as a consequence to Kalat declaring Independence, the Pakistan army entered Kalat and thereafter the Khan signed a treaty of accession to Pakistan. The younger brother of the Khan, Prince Abdul Karim however rose in revolt and went to Afghanistan for support which was not provided.

The Second Conflict (1950s)

On 22 November 1954, Pakistan adopted a 'One Unit' System in which all of the (then) Western Pakistan was deemed to be a single administrative entity into which all existing administrative entities were subsumed. This was done purportedly to balance the relative weights of East and West Pakistan. The resistance to the 'One Unit' System was more violent in Baluchistan than in any other province. The Khan of Kalat had initially agreed to the plan but nationalists rejected it on grounds that it curtailed Baloch autonomy. The Khan too then opposed it and was arrested. Upon his arrest, the Sardar of the Zarakzai tribe, Nauroz Khan led an insurrection of about 500 men demanding

the release of the Khan and the dissolution of the One Unit System, a movement that was severely crushed.

The Third Conflict (1960s)

The continuation of the One Unit System, the rough treatment meted out to the Baloch leaders and the distribution of land among the services and²⁵ non-locals were the major causes for the dissident movement by the Balochs during the 1960s. The Baloch leaders formed a series of alliance against the One Unit System that led to their joining the National Awami Party (NAP). They also demanded preferential treatment for Balochs in Government service.

In 1962, elections were held in which some Baloch leaders like Attaullah Mengal, Khair Bux Marri and Ahmed Nawaz Bugti (brother of Akbar Bugti) were elected as Members of the National Assembly and started making critical speeches in reaction to which the Government removed their Sardari Titles. Both the succeeding Mengal and Marri Chiefs were assassinated for which both Mangal and Marri were arrested and Mengal was charged with murder, tried by a Jirga and imprisoned.

These developments provoked a hostile reaction, mainly by Pararis led by Sher Mohammad Marri that was put down high handedly including the bombing of a Eid congregation at a village.

The Agitation was suspended during the 1965 war with India.

It however soon resumed due to a new factor i.e. The distribution of land to members of the services and their families and to non-locals. The resistance this time was organised by Sardar Akbar Bugti who was put behind bars and the Army called out and aerial bombing resorted to crush the resistance.

²⁵Extracted from 'The Balochistan Problem' by Imtiaz Ali (Pakistan Horizon, Vol. 58, No. 2, April 2005) Pages 41-62

This military action embittered the Baloch people. Former Army Chief and Governor of Balochistan, General Mohammad Musa, in his memoirs admitted that neither Mengal, Marri nor Bugti had committed any crime and that their detention was politically motivated.

A significant development of the period was the formation, in 1967, of the Baloch Students Organisation (BSO) which initially demanded better education facilities but broadened its programme to include all the demands of the NAP.

The agitation reached a peak in 1969 and was joined in by politicians, students, workers and professionals across the country. Several demonstrations were held in Quetta that led to a law and order problem.

The Fourth Conflict (1970s)

The conflict in the 1970s has its origins with the coming to power of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as Pakistan's Prime Minister with a vow to defend democracy. He faced opposition from Wali Khan from the NWFP and Attaullah Mengal, Ghaus Bux Bizenjo and Khair Bux Marri in Baluchistan. Bhutto appointed Abdul Qayum Khan as the Federal Interior Minister who was regarded as an 'agent' of the Intelligence Agencies and averse to the national Awami Party (NAP) which came to power in Balochistan.

The NAP represented a challenge to the PPP, Bhutto's Party, Bhutto miscalculated that a military confrontation with the NAP would drastically curtail the power of that party as also enhance the popularity of the PPP Government in Punjab, which was the core military recruitment area. This he felt, would keep the military would be fighting for national security and be off his back.

The NAP Government in Balochistan, headed by Mengal had tried to push for a socio-economic programme akin to 'sons of the soil' and started to remove 'outsiders' from jobs in Balochistan as out of the 12,000 employees in the

Provincial Government, only 3000 were Balochs. An armed conflict erupted between the Baloch tribes and the Punjabi settlers about claims over irrigated lands. Which the Federal Government considered a serious breach of peace on the part of the tribesmen. A contingent of the Civil Armed Forces was sent to control the situation. The Baloch tribes launched an uprising in Lasbela. A series of political developments followed in which Mengal took an ill-advised step to mobilise his own tribal Lashkar as well. There was another incident of an Arms Cache being discovered in the Iraqi Embassy supposedly for the tribals, which only worsened problems.

Importantly, being fearful of the implications of the Baloch rising in Pakistan on the Iranian Balochistan, the Shah of Iran supported Bhutto with a financial aid of \$200 million and 30 Huey helicopters from Iran to help crush the rebellion. Akbar Bugti accused the NAP Government of plotting to bring about a secession of Balochistan by smuggling in weapons from abroad. Thus he strengthened Bhutto's case for dismissing the NAP Government of Mengal and in return was appointed Governor of Balochistan as a successor to Bizenjo.

The Federal Government then launched four Divisions against the Baloch tribesmen, banned the NAP and took several Baloch leaders into custody.²⁶

A fallout of the rebellion was that radical Balochs lost faith in the political system and normal party politics. The feeling against an all-Pakistan was so strong that the Baloch statesman Bizenjo, who continued to seek 'provincial autonomy by peaceful means' was denigrated as 'Baba-e- Muzakerat'. (Father of negotiations).

²⁶Extracted from 'The Balochistan Problem' by Imtiaz Ali (Pakistan Horizon, Vol. 58, No. 2, April 2005) Pages 41-62

During the reign of Zia-ul-Haq, the ethnic conflict between Balochs and Pashtuns as a result of influx of about three million Afghan due to the Afghan Jihad. Out of these, over a million stayed on in Balochistan and were registered as voters. In the Chagai District, the refugees outnumbered the indigenous Balochs. The refugees in fact became a political asset for the Balochs to 'neutralise' the nationalist elements in Balochistan.

Another disturbing development was the increase in tribal conflict which became more and more violent due to easy availability of sophisticated weapons due to the Afghan war. There were lethal attacks even against each others' tribal leaders which was in violation of the 'tribal code'. In one such attack, three grandsons of Akbar Bugti were killed.

During the 1990s

After a period of relative 'peace' the Baloch leaders showed an increasing tendency to make alliances with mainstream political parties and form coalition governments at the provincial level. The demand for 'maximum provincial autonomy' was no longer insisted upon. Baloch tribal leaders had also shunned –old dispute between the Bugtis and the Mazaris had been resolved and Akbar Bugti announced a decision to dissolve his party if other leaders promised to form a new single party of Balochs.

Mega Projects

A major reason for the violence in Balochistan had been Baloch apprehensions about 'mega projects' in the province that were decided with much secrecy and without involvement of the province and prior consensus.

Gwadar: In 1972, the then Governor of Balochistan Ghaus Bux Bizenjo had visited Iran and obtained a commitment from the Shah for assistance in developing the Gwadar deep sea

Port. Bhutto had however had decided to develop Port Qasim in Singh as the second port and diverting resources for building a second port in Karachi thereby denying Balochistan a port in the province.

It is only in March 1992 that Benazir Bhutto decided to develop Gwader as an alternate port to Karachi.

Other Major Projects taken up / completed during the period are:

The Coastal Highway: Though completed, a portion of the highway had been destroyed in a flash flood which cast a doubt on the quality of construction.

Mirani Dam: Which would provide fresh water to Gwadar and irrigate over 32,000 acres of land in the Dasht plains, recharge thousands of dead wells.

Kachhi Canal :Which would bring almost 80,000 acres of land under cultivation in the Kachhi and Nasirabad regions.

Saindak Copper and Gold Project: This project that had initiated by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto but pended for several reasons including resistance from pro-West lobbies as also from import mafias who saw a loss of profit through importing copper for defence production and the domestic economy.

The Balochistan Situation²⁷

Multiple Conflicts²⁸

Balochistan's conflicts have multiple fault-lines:

- (a) The principal conflict between the Pakistan State and the Baloch Nationalists (the Military and Armed Militant groups);
- (b) Inter-tribal and intra-tribal feuds and clashes; and
- (c) Ethnic and sectarian conflicts, as a consequence of the militarized state's policy of Islamisation.

These situations have, over the years, provided cover for increasing organized violent crime. The conflict situation is further complicated by the involvement of several foreign states with an economic or political stake in the mineral-rich province.

Nationalist: Lack of control over natural resources and the dominance of the central government have been a constant theme in Balochistan nationalist grievance discourse and a trigger for conflict; critically, in recent years, so has the lack of provincial control in matters relating to development of the Gwadar Port in southern Balochistan. Additionally, grievances related to political victimization and state oppression persist. Since 2005, human rights organizations have recorded numerous serious human

²⁷Extracted from United States Institute of Peace Report titled "Balochistan Caught in the Fragility Trap" by Ali Dayan Hasan (June 2016) at <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB207-Balochistan-Caught-in-the-Fragility-Trap.pdf>

²⁸Extracted from United States Institute of Peace Report "Balochistan: Caught in the Fragility Trap" by Ali Dayan Hasan (Published June 27, 2016) at <http://www.usip.org/publications/2016/06/27/balochistan-caught-in-the-fragility-trap>

rights violations by security forces: extrajudicial executions, torture, enforced disappearances, forced displacement, and excessive use of force. In turn, Baloch nationalists have sporadically attacked government installations, buildings, and security force personnel.

Sectarian: Sectarian militancy and violence in Balochistan, part of the wider sectarian conflict in Pakistan, have risen exponentially over the last decade. **The prime targets of sectarian violence in Balochistan have been the Shia community, particularly the Shia Hazaras, at the hands of the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), which identifies as an anti-Shia, anti-Iran militant group.** In recent years, Pakistani authorities have also accused LeJ, in collaboration with the Pakistani Taliban, of masterminding armed attacks on Pakistani state targets;¹⁰ although there has also been a complex and contradictory but close historical relationship between the state and the LeJ both in Balochistan and beyond.

Ethnic: Since the beginning of the latest armed insurgency in 2006, dozens of non-Baloch people have been threatened, attacked, and killed by Baloch nationalists. Hundreds of teachers, especially ethnic Punjabis and Urdu-speakers, known as “settlers” in the province—have sought transfers out of Balochistan, bringing the education system to near collapse. Punjabi settlers are not the only ethnic group to have come under attack. In May 2015, more than twenty Pashtun laborers were taken off two Karachi-bound buses at gunpoint and shot.

Criminality and Violence: Balochistan’s multiple conflicts have created an enabling environment for criminal elements and groups to cement their presence and activity in the province. Members of threatened ethnic groups, government personnel, and local nongovernmental and foreign aid workers are frequently kidnapped for ransom. Such episodes have played a significant role in spreading terror and restricting travel and movement within Balochistan. Approximately one-third of drugs from Afghanistan, the region’s major producer, are

smuggled via the coastal region of Balochistan. According to the United Nations (UN) Office on Drugs and Crime, approximately \$30 billion worth of drugs are smuggled from Afghanistan via Pakistan to other countries. Similarly, there is a substantial market for smuggling arms and weapons from Afghanistan into Balochistan and on to other parts of Pakistan.¹⁶ Balochistan is also the principal route for smuggling migrants from Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Iran to destinations in Europe and beyond. **There have been long-standing allegations of connivance and complicity by government and security agencies in these criminal activities, which fuels a thriving parallel and underground economy and contributes to a nexus between criminality and terrorism.**

Baloch Grievances: The Balochs' grievances against the mega projects – lack of participation by locals and possible demographic changes. They also resented plans to set up three cantonments at Dera Bugti, Kohlu and Gwadar as also the fact that while the Federal Government earned (then) Rs 84 Billion from Sui Gas, they gave only Rs 4-5 Billion to the province. Making natural resources of different provinces a common asset of the country as a whole and allocation of resources on a population basis leaves the provinces, especially Balochistan with its sparse population at the mercy of the Federal Government.

Approach of the Pakistan Government²⁹

Pakistan has never admitted the existence of nationalist sentiments in Balochistan. Their stance has been that the unrest has been artificially stimulated by the Sardars to protect their privileges and blackmail the Government. Pakistan also believes that 'outsiders' are involved in the rebellions. **The Pakistani state has chosen to govern Balochistan by striking alliances with willing tribal/political elites in**

²⁹Extracted from 'The Balochistan Problem' by Imtiaz Ali (Pakistan Horizon, Vol. 58, No. 2, April 2005) Pages 41-62

return for access to the state's resources of power and patronage. The breakdown of these elite pacts invariably culminates in violent uprisings against the state, which, in turn, are suppressed by the military and foster a new cycle of violence followed by another elite pact. These ongoing cycles define Balochistan's fragility trap.³⁰

³⁰United States Institute of Peace Report "Balochistan Caught in the Fragility Trap" by Ali Dayan Hasan (June 2016) at <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB207-Balochistan-Caught-in-the-Fragility-Trap.pdf>

Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti - His Cause and Death ³¹

Akbar Shahbaz Khan Bugti — or Nawab Bugti as he was more familiarly known — devoted his life to the Baloch cause and ultimately became the undisputed martyr of the Baloch people.

He lived and breathed honourably and gracefully. Naturally, as one would expect after decades of tribal, political and public life, there are those who love him and those who criticise him, the praise and slander each creating its own version of the man. Most criticisms were manufactured.

He was beloved. Bugti always sat amongst his people on a Balochi hand-made mat. Friends and visitors found his warmth engaging and his interest genuine. Stories abound of how the late Nawab Bugti would offer spicy food to his guests.

Against overwhelming odds created overtly and covertly by the establishment, Bugti continually had to navigate the shifting sands of intrigue and sabotage.

After the killing of his beloved son, Salal Bugti, in June 1992, he chose to remain in the besieged Dera Bugti compound with his people. Nawab Bugti kept the Bugti tribe united and maintained the Baloch code. He tried to unite Baloch nationalist parties as well in 2004, calling for a unified and single Baloch nationalist party. But Islamabad's continued meddling in Balochistan's social, tribal and political affairs, state-sponsored conspiracies and repeated attacks on his life slowed down the process of Baloch unity.

³¹This section on Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti extracted from "Remembering Akbar Bugti" published in THE DAWN Jan 18, 2016 at <http://www.dawn.com/news/841260> and 'Bugti and the Baloch Cause' by Haris Gazdar (Economic and Political weekly Vol 41, No. 39 (30 Sep – 06 Oct 2006))

Having immense experience in politics, Bugti never saw armed struggle as the only solution to the Baloch question. He began negotiating with Islamabad. He prepared a set of reasonable and justified demands in consultation with veteran Baloch leaders and nationalist parties. He appointed his representatives to the parliamentary committee on Balochistan.

Bugti and other Baloch leaders worked with incredible patience. It was a slow process of dialogue with little chance to get political and economic relief for the Baloch people. For the people of Balochistan, it was a momentous occasion. Many saw the dialogue as the beginning of a new era for Baloch-Islamabad relations. But as expected by Nawab Bugti, Sardar Ataullah Mengal, Nawab Marri and other Baloch nationalists, Islamabad and its ruling civil-military establishment betrayed the Baloch.

Military and paramilitary forces were simultaneously harassing Baloch people. Several hundred political activists 'disappeared' and were tortured when Baloch political parties were talking to the Balochistan Committee formed by parliament. Talking to a journalist, Nawab Bugti in January 2005 said "How can negotiations on political issues continue with the government in this situation? A military operation and negotiations cannot continue side by side. If the authorities launch an operation, then with whom will they hold negotiations?"

Nawab Bugti pointed out that Nawab Khair Bakhsh Marri had already made it clear that he had nothing to do with this dialogue and Sardar Ataullah Mengal had also disassociated himself from the process in protest against the arrest of party workers and for other reasons.

The world watched incredulously as Pervez Musharraf declared an all-out war on Balochistan — on Dera Bugti, Kohlu, Makran, Jalawan and particularly Nawab Bugti. Tanks rolled into Dera Bugti and other parts of Balochistan in January 2005, prior to the so-called attack on Musharraf in December 2005 in Kohlu district.

In March 2005 forces began to smash Bugti's house and Dera Bugti town, killing dozens of civilians and leaving him besieged in a few rooms without electricity and water. Then Musharraf came up with a more inhuman plan to use all available air and ground power to eliminate Nawab Bugti. His associates planned a so-called visit to the remote town of Kohlu, bordering Dera Bugti district, to find an excuse to escalate the military operation against the Baloch people and their leaders.

After the so-called pre-planned attack on Musharraf on Dec 14, 2005, indiscriminate bombing compelled all Dera Bugti inhabitants to flee their homes. According to an Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre report 160,000 people were displaced during the conflict. Nawab Bugti, as a proud Baloch, moved to the mountains to protect his homeland.

Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti was killed on Aug 26, 2006. His death was followed by massive anti-government protests in Pakistan and media coverage worldwide. The Musharraf government refused to accept responsibility for the killing of Nawab Bugti and his associates.

No doubt, it was a well-planned murder of a respected veteran Baloch leader by a military dictator. In December 2005 addressing a newspaper editors' meeting in Lahore, Musharraf had thundered "There are two or three tribal chiefs and feudal lords behind what is going on in Balochistan. The past governments have made deals with them and indulged them. My government is determined to establish its writ. It will be a fight to the finish."

Pervez Musharraf and the military leadership were not prepared to concede to Balochistan's genuine economic and political demands. Instead of addressing Baloch grievances politically and through negotiations, the military-led government resorted to greater use of force. Musharraf added fuel to the fire when he declared "Don't push us. It isn't the 1970s when you can hit and run and hide in the mountains. This time you won't even

know what hit you.” The comment provoked a strong reaction from Baloch leaders.

Nawab Bugti was prepared for the consequences. During an interview in April 2006, Bugti had predicted his death at the hands of Pakistan’s armed forces. “They have been given instructions that myself and Nawabzada Balach Marri — the two of us should be wiped out.”

Islamabad’s incorrect policy of Baloch suppression has proved to be a failure. The killing of Baloch leaders has dealt a body blow to the fragile Baloch-Islamabad relations. Three years after the death of Nawab Bugti, Balochistan’s state of affairs represent a worsening scenario. Human rights violations are growing, tensions between Islamabad and the Baloch people have mounted, economic activities are at a dead level and poverty has increased manifold. All development activities have been halted

Obituaries described Akbar Bugti’s character as being hospitable, straightforward, ruthless, cruel, charming, violent, opportunistic and honour-bound. While he spent most of his life playing out the role of a hard-bargaining but ultimately pliant ‘sardar’ (tribal chief), his defiance of the military regime had turned him into a symbol of the “Baloch cause”.

In one of his last interviews Akbar Bugti said that the Baloch fight was about “lajja, namoos, izzat, ghairat” (a blend of honour, dignity, respect and sanctity) which he believed was the most important possession of the Baloch. Having established these psycho-cultural parameters he quickly moved to “rights and resources”.

Baloch Independence Groups

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA): Became publicly known during the summer of 2000, after it claimed credit for a series of bombing attacks on Pakistani authorities. Hyrbyair Marri has been its leader since 2007. Hyrbyair's brother Balach led the group from 2000 until he was assassinated in 2007.

United Baloch Army (UBA), a BLA splinter group led by Mehran Marri which was created as a result of an intrafamilial dispute between Mehran and his brother Hyrbyair Marri, the head of the Balochistan Liberation Army. The dispute allegedly between the brothers arose on account Mehran being accused of stealing \$3 million and \$800 million worth of weapons from the BLA. Among UBA's most dastardly attacks has been the storming of two buses in Mastung district that were in transit from Pishin to Karachi on 29 May 2015. The militants emptied the buses and then shot and killed 22 ethnic Pashtuns.

Balochistan Republican Front (BLF): Is a political front and militant group founded by Jumma Khan Marri in 1964 in Damascus, and played an important role in the 1968-1980 insurgency in Pakistani Balochistan and Iranian Balochistan.

Balochistan Republican Army (BRA): Alleged to be the militant wing of the Baloch Republican Party (a Baloch nationalist party in Balochistan headed by Brahumdagh Khan Bugti and favours independence, is proscribed in Pakistan. It was formed in 2008 after Brahumdagh Khan Bugti broke away from the Jamhoori Watan Party, originally formed by his grandfather Akbar Bugti). The BRA has been involved in militant activities against the Pakistan Army and mostly operates through guerrilla tactics such as ambush, sabotage and hit and run activities. The primary targets of the Baloch

Republican Army are the Security Forces of Pakistan and their installations including various headquarters, check-posts and outposts, convoys, offices and personnel; state machinery and infrastructure like railway lines, communication system, gas pipelines, wells and plants, electricity pylons and any other system. Many of its fighters train in guerrilla camps in the mountains of Baluchistan and also have a large number of fighters in the urban areas who carry out attacks on the targets like vehicles of Pakistani forces. BRA is mostly active around Dera Bugti and enjoys large public support there.

Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF): among the most active Baloch armed groups. It's led by Dr Allah Nazar, a former student leader and gynaecologist who is the only high profile Baloch insurgent commander currently fighting on the ground. In April 2015, BLF allegedly killed 20 labourers of the Frontier Works Organization, in Turbat.

Lashkar-e-Balochistan is an offshoot of the Baloch Liberation Army, is led by Javed Mengal, the son of Ataullah Mengal. Khan Baloch is the group's spokesman. The LeB are reportedly linked to the Mengal tribe. The Lashkar-e-Balochistan is agitating for Balochistan's national independence. It became publicly known in 2012 after it claimed responsibility for several bombings in Lahore, Karachi and Quetta, killing or injuring several people. LeB is believed to have several camps in Balochistan as well as in Afghanistan. The Group is organised into battalions, each consisting of 20 guerrillas led by a battalion commander. Every battalion commander works under LeB Chief Commander Javed Mengal. LeB has been designated as a terrorist group by the Government of Pakistan in 2012.

Baloch Republican Guard, one of the last groups to appear on stage. Allegedly operating on the border with Balochistan's neighbouring Sindh province.

The ‘Other’ Balochistan Iran’s Sistan and Baluchestan Province



Sistan and Baluchestan Province (*Ostān-e Sīstān-o Balūchestān* in Persian) is one of the 31 provinces of Iran that lies to the southeast of the country, bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan with its Capital at Zahedan. The name Balūchestān means “Land of the Balōch” and is used to represent the majority Baloch peoples inhabiting the province, Sistan was added to the name to represent the minority Persian peoples who speak the Sistani dialect of Persian.

Just as Balochistan is for Pakistan, this province is the largest in Iran, with an area of 181,785 km² and a population of 2.5 million. The various districts of the province are Chabahar, Qasar-qand, Dalgan, Hirmand, Iranshahr, Khash, Konarak, Nikshahr, Saravan, Sarbaz, Soran, Zabol, Zaboli, Zahedan and Zehak.

Peoples: The population of comprises a majority of Baluch, with Sistani Persians being a sizeable minority. Other smaller communities are the Kurds (in the eastern highlands and

near Iranshahr), the Brahui (on the borders between Iran and Pakistan) and other resident and itinerant ethnic groups such as the Gypsies who are also found in the province. In the south, east and west of Sistān and Balūchestān, the people are mostly Balōch and speak the Baluchi language. In the far north of Sistān and Balūchestān, the people are mostly Persians and speak a dialect of the Persian language known as Sistani/Seestani, similar to the Dari Persian language in Afghanistan.

Religion: “The traditional habitation domain of the Baluches includes mainly the bordering areas of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Most of them follow the Hanafi mazhab of Sunni Islam, but there are also Shi’a communities in certain regions of Iranian Baluchistan (like Dalgan, etc. and a sect called Zikriyya. However, almost all the Zikri Baluches, during the last decades of the 20th century, for different socio-economic, cultural and religious reasons had moved from Iranian province of Baluchistan to Pakistani Balochistan.’ The Zikris are not considered a Sufi order, although, as Pastner notes, “Both Zikri and Sunni Baluch pirs, like their counterparts elsewhere in Islamic ‘little traditions’, are heirs to the Sufi belief in the ability of the individual mystic to attain union with God without the mediation of the ‘Ulama or “official” learned clergy representing ‘Great Tradition’ Islam”. In Iranian Baluchistan, among the Sunni Baluches, the Zikris have left mostly negative reminiscences: they are characterised almost as kafir, infidels, following non-Muslim traditions and practicing heretical rituals”.³²

Geography: The province comprises two sections, Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south and the combined Sistan and Baluchestan province today accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and a rise in humidity in the coastal regions. **The province is**

³²Extracted from ‘Notes on the Religious Landscape of Iranian Baluchistan : Observations from the Sarrhad Region’ by Vahe Bohajian-Sureniant (Source: Iran and the Caucasus, Vol 8, No.2 (2004)

subject to seasonal winds from different directions, the most important of which are the 120-day wind of Sistan known as Levar, the Qousse wind, the seventh (Gav-kosh) wind, the Nambi or south wind, the Hooshak wind, the humid and seasonal winds of the Indian Ocean, the North or (Gurich) wind and the western (Gard) wind.

Natural Resources: The province has important geological and metal mineral potentials such as chrome, copper, granite, antimony, talc, manganese, iron, lead, zinc, tin, nickel, platinum, gold and silver. One of the main mines in this province is Chel Kooreh copper mine in 120 km north of Zahedan.

Historical Backdrop

Upto 19th Century: The territory was the centre of the Rind-Lashari Tribal Confederacy prior to the shift of its power to eastern Balochistan under Amir Chakar Rind in the late fifteenth century. It was also united with the rest of the country under the rule of the Khanate of Kalat for the greater part of the eighteenth century. Upon the death of Nasir Khan I, in 1805 and the subsequent deterioration of the central authority in Kalat, the Balochi chieftains of the distant western provinces were the first to succumb to centrifugal tendencies and declare their independence. Of these, the most important were the principalities of Dizaks, Pahra (Iranshahr), Bampur, Baho-Dashtiari, Geh, Sarbaz, Kasser kand, and the chieftainates of Sarhard and Bashkard.

Ties with British India

Sir Henry Pottinger, a British officer who visited the region in 1810 found western Balochistan independent under the rule of Shah Mehrab Khan Narui . In 1839 Haji Abdul Nabi, an Afghan sent by the British to collect intelligence on the political conditions of the country, reported that the Naruis then under Mohammed Ali Khan were still ruling from Bampur, but observed that Muhammad Shah, the Hakim of Sib, had

emerged as the strongest Balochi ruler even though he had no superior position among other Chiefs. By the Treaty of 1854, Kalat was reduced to a subordinate position wherein it could not negotiate with other powers without British consent and gave Britain obtained the right to station troops in whatever part of the country it deemed necessary.

The consolidation of British power in eastern Balochistan, which started with the occupation of the Kalat for a short time in 1839, coincided with the beginning of Iranian encroachments on western Balochistan during the reign of Nasir-u-Din Shah (1848-1896) of the Qajar dynasty (1779-1925).

In 1849, an Iranian force was sent to punish the Baloch incursions into Kerman, defeating the latter and capturing Bampur, a major Balochi town on the edge of Kerman.

The Indo-European Telegraph Line

The Qajar expansion, however, intensified after the extension of the Indo-European Telegraph Line from Karachi to Gwadar in the domains of Kalat and then up to Jack on the coast of western Balochistan in 1861. By the time the line was completed in 1869-70, Iranian forces had advanced as far as Sarbaz between the coast and Bampur.

“During the course of the British investigation for the construction of the telegraph line, they were confronted by conflicting territorial claims to western Balochistan by the Shah of Persia, Khan of Kalat, and Sultan of Muscat. At the beginning, the British took a neutral stand by avoiding accepting pretension of sovereignty by any side. On March 11, 1862, the government of India warned the Secretary of State for India that by entering any arrangement with Persia as to the recognition of her claim, “we could not expect those chiefs (Balochi) to look without suspicion at such an engagement between our government and that of Shah, although it does not in terms prevent us from neutrality between themselves and Persia.”

Another official report, dated December 9, 1863 prepared by the British Commissioner Sir Frederick Goldsmith (then a colonel in charge of telegraph negotiation) for the Secretary of State for India in regard to the Persian claims, places the question into historical perspective.

*“As to her (Persia) right, I know of none but of the strong over the weak, of the prestige of a high sounding monarchy over the obscurity of a small chieftom. More than one hundred years ago Nadir Shah appointed Nasir Khan Brahui, the Governor of the whole of Balochistan, inclusive of Makuran, and in such capacity he was no doubt to some extent a feudatory of Persia, but it is also more than a hundred years ago that he exchanged the quasi service of the Shah for that of the Afghan King. His allegiance to Kandahar was no less binding than to Persia. It was the allegiance exacted by a stronger arm than his own. When the Afghan monarchy fell to pieces, the service ceased; but Balochistan also fell to pieces, and its chiefs set up claims of independence for themselves... Of late years she has, perhaps been more than usually active in this re-assertion of Makkuran sovereignty. The present state of affairs in Kalat must be especially favorable to her views. Anarchy in that quarter cannot but afford occasion for intrigue, if not for the actual advance of troops. **But no new argument will be needed to show that anything like the dismemberment of Kalat would be as advantageous to Persian interests as detrimental to our own.** If possession for a period of years must necessarily imply “acknowledgement by the local rulers” it is the acknowledgement of helplessness. I do not for a moment believe that the Persian yoke is acceptable to the Sardars of Makkuran west of Kalat”.*

Subsequently, the British side-stepped the questions of territorial sovereignty and signed separate agreements with the Shah of Persia in 1858, Sultan of Oman in 1865, and the Balochi chiefs of Bahu, Dastiari, Geh, and Jask in 1869. These agreements dealt only with the question of the protection of telegraph wires and stations, and in each case the British undertook to pay a fixed subsidy to the separate parties involved.

The British were well aware that any acknowledgment as to the Persian claims on their part would have been taken by the independent Balochi chiefs as well as the Khan of Kalat as a sign of Anglo-Persian collaboration and that would have endangered the success of the telegraph negotiations which they had to enter with the Balochi chiefs.

Once the telegraph line was completed and its security assured by the Balochi chiefs, the British began to shift their policy of neutrality in favor of Persia. The official explanation was that Persian encroachment was threatening the security of Kalat as a protected state of British India and as such, a settlement with Persia would serve the interests of Kalat as well. Meanwhile, Persia took advantage of the British Presence in western Balochistan to consolidate its conquests as well as to further her expansion in order to enhance her claims and strengthen her bargaining position. It was during this time that Persian troops first advanced as far as Sarbaz and then suddenly the Wazir of Kerman was officially entitled by his sovereign as Sardar of Balochistan around 1866. With the completion of the telegraph line in 1869, the road was paved for an official investigation suggested by Lord Mayo in the same year and the subsequent formation of a joint boundary commission by Persia, Britain, and Kalat was instigated by the Shah in 1870.

The Goldsmith Line

Consequently, General Goldsmith was appointed as the British Commissioner on the Boundary Commission. The commission, however, was not able to hold a joint meeting due to a strong

sense of ill feeling displayed toward the Kalat delegate by the Persian commissioner Mirza Ma'sum Khan, who refused to meet with his Baloch counterpart. As a result, General Goldsmith became the sole actor and arbitrator on the issue.

In 1871 he received detailed instructions from the Viceroy in Council, who had carefully outlined the limits of a proposed boundary line to be suggested for approval by Persia, but had also added that "a very liberal view may, therefore, be taken of Persian claims to the west of that line. The proposed line was, in turn, based on Goldsmith's own previous suggestions and reports, which had been prepared in connection with his mission concerning the Makuran telegraph. **In one of these reports prepared for the government of Bombay and the Secretary of State for India on April 27, 1864, Goldsmith had underlined the basic historical argument for recognizing the Persian claims as to the latest conquests in western Balochistan.**

Goldsmith's Report stated:

"1 That, in my opinion, the claims of Persia to Makkuran generally are based upon somewhat tradition conquests of former years, more or less substantiated by the formal disposal of the province to Mohbut Khan Brahui in the middle of the last century; that the later rise of a new Government and enterprise of a new Chief in Balochistan virtually dispossessed Persia of her never well-defined Makuran territories; but that forcible reassertion of the Shah's sovereignty over certain parts of Makuran, so far as hitherto carried out, however warrantable in accordance with the rule of European politics, is not a matter with which we can interfere upon a bare principle of justice and equity. In this view, such Makuran territories as Persia now holds in tributes, are hers by mere right of possession.

2. That those portions of Makuran obeying the authority

of the Khan of Kalat are that chiefs by possession and also by acknowledgement of the local rulers. They are part of an inherited Balochistan state, held, at first, in quasi-feudal tenure from Persia, subsequently from Kandahar, but in reality on a basis of independence, the revolutions which distracted the province after the death of Nasir Khan in 1795 can only effect such petty chieftoms as have been successful in permanently throwing off their allegiance. Those, which revolted and were afterwards subdued, still remain component parts of the inheritance of the Khans.

It is interesting to note how, at the time, the report had equated the claim of Persia to the territory with that of Kalat, a Balochi state, thus leaving the door open for the later recognition of Persian claims. Eventually, the proposed boundary line as sketched by Goldsmith was accepted by Persia and was embodied in a treaty signed between the two sides in September 1871, hence known as the Goldsmith Line separating Eastern and Western Balochistan.

General Goldsmith wrote in the final report of his proceedings to the Secretary of State for India on November 9, 1871, that

“These traits, had they power to be independent, would be independent; not having power to be independent, they are as fair prey to the strongest neighbour”.

Thereafter, the name “Persian Balochistan replaced “Western Balochistan” in the official colonial documents.

At present the Goldsmith Line forms international boundary between Iran and Pakistan.

Administrative Divisions of Balochistan


For administrative purposes, the province is divided into six Divisions - Kalat, Makran, Nasirabad, Quetta, Sibi and Zhob. This divisional level was abolished in 2000, but restored after the 2008 election. Each Division is under an appointed Commissioner.

There were 30 Districts in the Province until 2013 when three Districts were formed by dividing some larger districts.


Three more districts were created in 2013, thereby increasing the number of Districts to 33.


The 30 Districts as existing until 2013 are as follows:

Baluchistan Districts – At a Glance


Awaran	
District Status	11th November 1992
Geographical Area	29,510 square kilometers
Administrative Units	3 Tehsils and 10 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Bizenjos, Mohammed Hasnis, Sajdis, Mirwanis, Rakhshani, Musianis, Sumalanies, Mengals. The main tribes in the district are Bizenjos, Mohammed Hasnis, Sajdis, Mirwanis, Rakhshani, Musianis, Sumalanies and Mengals.

Language	Balochi, Brahvi, Pushto, Urdu
Climate	The climate of Awaran is hot in summer (with cool nights) and moderately cool in winter. The storms become very severe from June to September. The rain falls mostly during the months of April, May, June, and July. Average rainfall is 48.1 mm, maximum average temperature is 28.5°C and minimum average temperature is 12.7°C


Barkhan	
District Status	31st December, 1991
Geographical Area	3,410 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	1 Tehsil and 8 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Khetran, Marri, Buzdar, Ispani, Phaliat, Dhiraywaal, Mamani, Rotar, Wagga, Mahma, Chacha, Atlani, Akwani, Gigarani, Jamani, Macharani, Bigra, Jankiani, Dehmani, Ehsani, Nahar, Lohme, Qasmani Salarani
Language	Major language is Khetrani while Balochi is other language spoken.
Climate	The climate of Barkhan is moderate, summers are not very hot. Dust storms are common. The winters are cold.

Chagai	
District Status	1896 and in 1970, when Balochistan was declared a province, Chaghai had status of district: in 2004, Nushki was separated from Chaghai and made a district
Geographical Area	45,444 square kilometers
Administrative Units	2 Tehsils and 10 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	The principal ethnic group of District Chaghai is Baloch, and a small population of Pushtoons also lives in the district. Baloch ethnic group is prevailing tribe of the area according to population and authority. The major tribes in the district are Sanjarani, Notezai, Mohammad Hassani, Sumalani, Reki, Gorgaij, Mengal and Baraich.
Language	Balochi and Brahvi, however, after the influx of afghan refugees during afghan war, Pashto is also spoken in the parts of refugee camp of Girdi Jungle.
Climate	The climate of Chaghai District is extremely hot in summer and mild in the winter. The rainfall is irregular and scanty due to the district falls outside the sphere of monsoon currents. Rainy


	season is mostly in the month of January. However, a little rainfall is also recorded in the months of February, July and December.
Notes: The district derives its name from “Chagai” a village on the western border of the Lora Hamun. The legend attributes the origin of the name to the numerous wells (Chahas) which are said to have formerly existed in the vicinity.	


Dera Bugti	
District Status	July 1993
Geographical Area	10,316 square kilometers
Administrative Units	3 Tehsils and 12 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	The principal tribe of the area is Bugti, which is a Baloch tribe. The tribe is further divided in to various clans The Bugti sub-tribes are : Mundarani, Ferozani, Mohaarkanzai, Rahija (Rahija is the tribe of Nawab Bugti Sobazai, Salamaanzai, Lal Khan Zai, etc. (sub-tribes of Rahijas.), Masuri, Nauthani, Kalpar, (Kalpar) Deenari, (Kalpar) Hothkani, Shambani, Maretha, Mandhwani.
Language	Bugti Balochi

Climate	Dera Bugti area is hot and dry during summer, while in winter it often remains cold and dry. Mean rainfall is 6.6 mm, maximum temperature is 33.6°C and minimum temperature is 20.1 o C.
Notes: `Dera Bugti' means the abode of the Bugtis the dominant tribe of this Agency. Non-Muslims too can join the Bugti tribe and use the surname of Bugti as done by many Hindus in Dera Bugti.	

Gwadar	
District Status	1st July, 1977
Geographical Area	15,216 square kilometers
Administrative Units	4 Tehsils and 13 Union Co
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Baloch tribes (Hoots, Gihckis, Kauhdas, Meers, Kalmati, Dashti and Rind)
Language	Balochi
Climate	The climate of District Gwadar is hot and humid in summer and mild in winter. The uniformity of temperature is a unique characteristic of the coastal region in Balochistan. Occasionally, winds in Balochistan plateau bring cold spells, otherwise the winter is pleasant. Winter is shorter than summer.


Notes: The inhabitants of Gwadar were Baloch and their chief was Malik Jelaeddin, son of Malik Dinar. In 1783, the Khan of Gwadar granted authority over Gwadar to Taimur Sultan, the defeated ruler of Muscat. When Taimur Sultan reclaimed Muscat, he continued his rule in Gwadar by appointing a governor there. Gwadar officially became a district on July 1, 1977. **Gwadar became a part of Pakistan in September 1958.**


<p style="text-align: center;">Harnai</p>	
<p>District Status</p>	<p>2007</p>
<p>Geographical Area</p>	<p>3,075 square kilometres</p>
<p>Administrative Units</p>	<p>2 Tehsils and 6 Union Councils</p>
<p>Tribes and Ethnic Groups</p>	<p>The dominated tribe of District Harnai is Tareen. Majority of the population is Pushtoon and Afghans, which belongs to Tareen tribe. Baloch tribes that live in the area are Marris and Sailachis. There are a large number of heterogeneous groups. The Abdullani, Khadrani, Aspani, Miani, Shaikh, Waraisi, Maraizai and Bazani etc are the minority tribes.</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>The major language spoken in the district is known as Tareeno, which is different in dialect from Pushto, spoken in most parts of the province.</p>
<p>Climate</p>	<p>Extremely hot in summer and warm to pleasant winters. The rainy season is mostly in monsoon.</p>

Jafarabad	
At A Glance	
District Status	July 1987; later combined with Naseerbad but status restored in 2002.
Geographical Area	2,445 square kilometres
Administrative Units	There are total 4 Tehsils and 45 union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	There are three main ethnic groups inhabiting the district: the Baloch, Jamoot/Jat and Brahvi. The predominant and leading Baloch tribes are Khosa and Jamali. The Khosa tribe has a little numerical edge over Jamali. They are followed by Jamoot, Brauhi and Sindhi. The other minorities in the district are Syeds, Gola, Mengal, Sasooli, Jattak, Lehri, Bungalzai, Shahwani and Kakar. Among the Brahvis sub tribes are Mengal, Jattak, and Rakhsa.
Language	Balochi, Sindi, Saraiki, Brahvi,
Climate	The climate of District Jaffarabad is extremely hot and highly humid in summer, particularly in the area adjacent to the Pat Feeder Canal, where rice cultivation takes place. Dust storms are also experienced in summers which lose intensity due to the increase of vegetation. Winters


	remain pleasant. The rainy season is mostly in the months of July and August.
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Notes: The District's name is derived from Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali, who was a Muslim League veteran from Baluchistan and a close friend of Quaid-e-Azam. Formerly, this district was known as sub-division 'Jhatpat' and was a part of Jacobabad District of Sindh Province. Jaffarabad was separated from Nasirabad after being accorded district status in 2002.


Jhal Magsi	
District Status	16 Feb 1992
Geographical Area	3,078 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	2 Tehsils and 9 Union Councils.
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Major Baloch and Jamoot tribes in the district are Magsi, Rind and Hathyari. Hindus and Sikh are in minority. The living patterns of locals are similar irrespective of ethnic backgrounds.
Language	Sindhi, Balochi and Saraiki.
Climate	The climate of the district is dry and hot. From November to the middle of March climatic conditions are very pleasant. The remaining months are hot. Rainfall in Jhall Magsi District is scanty
Notes: The name originates from Magsi tribe. Almost all main flood rivers of Balochistan pass through District Jhall Magsi, which includes Mula, Suklegi, Badrah, Nari, Sharkal and Dhooriri.	

Kachhi (Bolan)	
District Status	31 December 1991 (renamed as Kachhi on 18 April 2008)
Geographical Area	8036 Square Kilometres
Administrative Units	There are total 4 Tehsils and 27 Union councils.
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	The major socio-linguistic groups are Baloch and Brauhi (Brahvi). The principal Baloch tribes of the district are Rind, Shawani, Domki, Syed and Kurd who are native residents of the area. These tribes are further divided in to sub-tribes. Formerly, Kurd remained a principal tribe and the prominent personality of district, Sardar Dinaar Khan Kurd belonged to this tribe. Another main tribe belongs to Baloch is Rind, which predominantly speaks Balochi while majority among them are also familiar to Sindhi. These tribes inhabit in different villages scattered all over the district.
Language	Sindhi is the most widely spoken language in the area, followed by Balochi and Brahvi, whereas, Urdu is a medium of education or communication between people with different ethnic backgrounds mostly in the urban areas of district.


Climate	The climate of Bolan is moderate in summers and chilling in winter. Mean rainfall is 209.9 mm, maximum average temperature is 40.6°C and minimum average temperature is 14.58°C.
Notes: The name Bolan originated from Bolan Pass, which has its historical and strategic significance as a main route between Afghanistan to Punjab and Sindh Provinces as well as to the coast of Pakistan. The Pass itself is a chain of narrow valleys between high ranges and the river Bolan, which flows through these valleys. Bolan district was renamed as Kachhi on 18 April 2008. The Hindu population of the area is Sindhi and Balochi speaking.	


Kalat	
District Status	03 February 1954
Geographical Area	6,621 square kilometres.
Administrative Units	Kalat and Surab, five tehsils: Kalat Mangochar, Johan, Gazgz, and Surab, 81 patwar circles and 614 mauza (villages). 3 Tehsils and 18 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	The main tribes in Kalat are Mirwani, Dehwar, Mengal, Pandrani, Mohammad Hassani, Shahwani, Bangulzai, Lehri and Langau.


Language	Majority of population in the district speaks Brahvi followed by Balochi. Dehwar, Mengal, Pandrani, Mohammad Hasni, Shahwani, Bangulzai, Lehri, Langau and Mirwani
Climate	Kalat District is one of the coldest areas in Pakistan. The climate of the district is dry in summer and severely cold in the winter. Heavy snowfall is experienced in the city, owing to its higher elevation. Spring is the most pleasant time in the area. Autumn season remains mild during day and cold at night.
<p>Notes: The district draws its name from the ancient city of Kalat. The old name of the district headquarters was Kahan. It is said that a Hindu dynasty, called Sewa, ruled over this part of the country prior to the 7th century. Kalat is still known as Kalat-i-Sewa.</p>	


Kech (Turbat)	
District Status	1st July, 1977
Geographical Area	22,540 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	There are total 4 Tehsils and 37 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Brahvis, Pushtuns, Sindhis, Punjabis,
Language	Balochi, Urdu

Climate	The climate of Kech is hot in summer and mild in winter. January is the coldest month, with maximum temperature remaining at about 10 c degree centigrade. Rainfall is scanty and uncertain.
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Kharan	
District Status	15th March 1952.
Geographical Area	11,215 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	There are total 2 Tehsils and 7 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Nausherwani, Rakhshani, Muhammad Hasni Perakzai, Siapad, Kubdani, Mulazai.
Language	Balochi
Climate	The climate of Kharan is dry. Dust storms are common throughout the year. During the summer season, the days are hot and nights are very pleasant and cool. The winter is dry and cold.
Notes: The ancient name of Kharan was Karan or Qaran. "According to the historian Istakhari, its name was Qaran after the name of the Qaran or Barfen mountains. The Koh-i-Kharan is also mentioned in Kitab-i-Masalik-o-Mumalik".	


Khuzdar	
District Status	1st March 1974
Geographical Area	31,100 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	5 Tehsils and 34 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Baloch is the main ethnic group, while Brahvi, Balochi and Sindhi are the major languages of the district. The major Baloch tribes in the district are Zehri, Sumalani, Mengal, Kalandrani, Mohammad Hasni, Sajidi, Bizenjo, Nichari, Qambrani, Pandrani, Mirwani, Rekizai, Gurganari, Jattak, Rodeni and Sasoli.
Language	Brahvi , Balochi, Sindhi
Climate	The climate of Khuzdar can be categorized as “warm summer and mild winter”. Annual average rainfall is more than 250 mm. The southern area of the district is warmer than the northern areas.
<p>Notes:</p> <p>The central position of Khuzdar, as the point of convergence of roads from Multan (via the Moola pass), Makran and Kandhar (province of Afghanistan), made it a very important place for the Arabs invading India.</p>	

Killa Abdullah	
District Status	14th June, 1993
Geographical Area	5,263 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	4 Tehsils and 25 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Pashtoon, Kakar, Tareen, Syed, Achakzai
Language	Pashto, Urdu
Climate	Generally dry and temperate. The rainfall is irregular and scanty. The summer is the most delightful time of the year.
<p>Notes: The District is named after Sardar Abdullah Khan Achakzai one of the two great leaders of the rebellion at Kabul in 1841, during which the British envoy was killed. He bought Dehsora Karez from Kakars and Chashma Inzergai from the Ashezai Achakzai and built a fort (Killa) and gave the place his own name. Muslim Bagh (formerly called Hindu Bagh) is believed to be named after a garden planted by a Hindu saint.</p>	


Killa Saifullah	
District Status	14th December 1988
Geographical Area	6,831 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	3 Tehsils and 15 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Pushtuns, Kakars
Language	Pushto


Climate	Iregular rainfall. Mean annual rainfall in Killa Saifullah ranges between 125 and 500 millimeters, most of which falls in winter as snowfall. Pleasant summers.
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Kohlu	
District Status	6th February 1974
Geographical Area	7,610 Square kilometer
Administrative Units	3 Tehsils and 8 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Balochs (above 90%), Zarkoon
Language	Balochi: 93.8%, Pushto: 2.9%, (Saraiki, Punjabi, Urdu, Sindhi and Brahvi: 3.3%)
Climate	The climate of Kohlu can be placed in the “arid with warm summer and cool winter” category. The summer is warm with mean temperatures ranging from 21°C to 32°C. June is the hottest month. In winter, the temperature drops below 10°C and dropping even below 0°C during cold spells.
Notes: Kohlu District, also known as Marri country, has always been an arena of political insurgence or tribal vendettas. It was a deserted area and there was no permanent human settlement before inhabitation of Marris, which is why the history of Kohlu district is primarily a history of the Marri tribe.	


Lasbela	
District Status	30th June, 1954
Geographical Area	15,153 square kilometer
Administrative Units	5 Tehsils and 22 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Baloch, Med, Khoja, Jamoot, Ranjhas, Sheikh
Language	Sindhi, Balochi, Brahvi, Urdu
Climate	The coast has a moderate and moist climate. The weather is generally fine. May and June are the hottest months. Average rainfall is 36.3 mm, maximum average temperature is 35.1°C and minimum average temperature is 18.3°C.
<p>Notes: Notes:The district of Lasbela derives its name from the words LAS which signifies a plain, the greater part of the area being a flat plain, and Bela, the principle town of the district.The principal tribes among the Lasis claim to be descendants of the Sumras and Sammas who formerly resided in Sindh. Their tribal names indicate that many of them are of Hindu origin. Tryst with Romance: There is a spring called Sassi Waro-Chodo (Sassi's Spring) the heroine of the romance of Sassi and Punnun. The common tomb of another romantic couple of yore, Shireen and Farhad is also located in the District.</p>	

Lehri
<p>Lehri District is the 31st district in Balochistan, Pakistan created in May 2013 from a taluka of Sibi District (Lehri Tehsil) and a taluka of Kachhi District (Bhag Tehsil). Its Headquarters is at Bakhtiarabad. The district comprises the tehsils of Lehri and Bhag,</p>


Loralai	
District Status	October 1903
Geographical Area	8,155 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	3 Tehsils and 20 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Kakar, Luni, Tareen, and Nasar, the other tribes are Shadozai, Dumer, Humzazai, Utmankhail, Sarghah, Zakhpal, Jogazai, Jalazai, Vanchi, and Peechi.
Language	Pashto (Major) and Baluchi
Climate	The climate of the district is generally dry, however, it varies with the elevation. At high altitude it is cold and dry. Winters are very cold and windy, whereas summers are mild. Maximum rainfall occurs in the month of March and in the monsoon season.
<p>Notes:The District derives its name from the Loralai stream to the north of which the town of Loralai, the headquarters of the district, is situated.</p> <p>According to the Treaty of Gandamak, signed on the 25th May 1879 AD Duki and Thal Chotiali land with other parts of Balochistan passed into the hands of the British.</p>	


Mastung	
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District Status	18th February, 1992
Geographical Area	5,896 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	3 Tehsils and 13 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Groups Brahui (Tribes: Shahwani, Raisani, Bagulzai, Lehri, Kurd), Dehwar (Tribes: Khwajakhail. Alizai, Mandozai), Pashtoon (Tribes: Babri, Tareen, Yousafzai)
Language	Dehwari (A dialect of Persian, Urdu and Brahvi
Climate	Dry hot summers and mild to cool winters. Rainfall is scanty. During winter, snow falls in the valleys of Mastung and Dasht.

Musakhail	
District Status	1 January 1992
Geographical Area	7,552 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	2 Tehsils and 10 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Pathan, Balochs, Saraikis
Language	Balochi (7.8%), Saraiki 1.6%, (Jafri, Punjabi, Urdu, Sindhi and Brahvi, spoken 5.6%)
Climate	Climate of Musakhail is Semi-arid. It can be placed in the “warm summer and mild winter” temperature region. The summer


	is hot with mean temperatures ranging from 21°C to 32°C. June is the hottest month when maximum temperature exceeds 32°C.
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Nasirabad	
District Status	1974
Geographical Area	3,387 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	4 Tehsils and 24 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Baloch, Jamoot (Jat), Brahvi, Sindhi and Saraiki / Umrani, Bhangar, Manjhoo, Khosa, Jamali, Mastoi, and Mangrio.
Language	Languages Balochi, Sindhi, Saraiki, Pashto, Punjabi
Climate	Becomes extremely hot in summer. Winter season is pleasant in the whole area of the district. Humidity increases in summer. Dust storms are common in hot weather in the summer season. The rain fall, mostly during the monsoons, is inadequate.
Notes : The district was created in 1974, formerly part of Sibi District. Its original name was Temple Dera, named after Captain H. M. Temple, a career British civil servant, who served as the Political Agent for Sibi from 1891 to 1892. For three years, from July 1987 to December 1990, it was known as Tamboo district. Tamboo is a small village 40 km west of Dera Murad Jamali Among the local population it is still known as 'Tipul', a corruption of the word 'temple'.	

Nushki	
District Status	July 1899
Geographical Area	5,797 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	1 Tehsil and 10 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Zangi-Nawar, Khanuwal Sher Jan Agha Baloch, Brahvi, (minor groups: Punjabi / Urdu speaking and Pashtoons). Nushki initially belongs to the Rakhshani i.e., Mandaee and Badini including Jamaldin tribes. Later on the Khan of Kalat sent Mengal and Sumalani tribes along with Pirkani, Sarparah and Rodeni tribes as border security force against Afghan invaders.
Language	Balochi, Brahvi and Urdu
Climate	Nushki District ranges from extreme hot in summer to severe cold in winter. The rainfall is irregular and scanty.


Panjgur	
District Status	1st July 1977.
Geographical Area	16,891 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	2 Tehsils and 16 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Balochs (98%).

Language	Balochi
Climate	The climate of Panjgur Warm summer and cool winter. Mean monthly temperature in summer remains below 32°C. In the hottest month, sometimes it does exceed 32°C but remains below 38°C. In the coldest month, January, the mean monthly temperature drops below 10°C


Pishin	
District Status	18th January 1975
Geographical Area	5,000 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	4 Tehsils and 38 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Pushtoons
Language	Pushto
Climate	The summer is the most delightful time of the year; winters can be bitterly cold. Rainfall is irregular and scanty. In winter the district is affected by storms.

Quetta	
District Status	1975
Geographical Area	2,653 Square kilometers


Administrative Units	2 Tehsils and 67 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Quetta Miri. Afghans and Brahu is are recent immigrants into Quetta with the Brahu is are an offshoot from the Kalat territory and their presence in the district dates back to the eighteenth century. However it is the Pashtoons are considered to have immigrated to this region from their home around the Takht-i-Sulaman about eight centuries ago to make their first settlement at Samli, a village near Quetta city.
Language	Pashtoon, Baloch, Brahui, Hazara and Punjabi Urdu, Punjabi, Pashto, Balochi, Sindhi, Brahui, Hindko, Siraiki and Persian
Climate	The climate of Quetta, is arid with significant variations between summer and winter temperatures. Rainfall is irregular and scanty as the district lies outside monsoon range. The principal mode of precipitation in winter used to be snowbut hefrequency of snowfall has decreased.


Sherani	
District Status	2006
Geographical Area	2,710 Square kilometers

Administrative Units	1 Tehsil and 7 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Pashtoon / Sherani (branches: Hasan Khel, Oba Khel, and Choharkhail) and Harifal tribes
Language	Pashto
Climate	The climate is cold and not very hot in summer, during which it receives heavy rainfall during summer.


Sibi	
District Status	1903
Geographical Area	5,304 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	2 Tehsils and 15 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Baloch, Jamoot, Pashtoons
Language	Balochi, Sindhi, Pashto
Climate	A major part of the district is low lying and falls in the agriculture-ecological zone-I (sea to 625 m. above sea level) Part of it lies 2,500 m. above sea level. The district is one of the hottest areas of the (Indo-Pak) Sub-Continent.
Notes: Sibi district was established in October 1903 and is named after the town of Sibi, which in its turn derives its name from Siwi, a Hindu lady of Sewa race who is said to have once ruled over this part of the country.	

Sohbatpur
Sohbatpur District is the 32nd district in Balochistan, Pakistan. It was created in May 2013 from a Tehsil of Jaffarabad District.

Washuk	
District Status	2005
Geographical Area	33, 093 Square kilometres.
Administrative Units	3 Tehsils and 9 Union Councils
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Baloch
Language	Balochi, Brahvi and Urdu
Climate	Mainly dry; in summer very hot during day and pleasant at night. Dust storms are o common throughout the year. Maximum temperature crosses 40 Celcius in summer
Notes: Washuk is amongst the least developed districts of Pakistan	

Zhob	
District Status	February 1890
Geographical Area	12,400 Square kilometers
Administrative Units	2 Tehsils and 24 Union Councils.
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Mandokhels, Kakars, Sheranis, Haripals, Babars, Lawoons, Khosty and Syeds. Sulemankhels, Nasars, Kharots, Afghans.
Language	Pashto, Saraiki

Climate	The climate of Zhob District is cold. In Summer, the weather does not get very hot. The region receives heavy rainfall during summer. Hilly areas and higher altitudes has heavy snow fall and snow storms during winters.
Notes: Previously called Fort Sandeman, named after Robert Sandeman, the first Agent to the Governor General of Balochistan, the district is now named after the river Zhob, (a Pashto word meaning 'oozing water'). Traditionally, Fort Sandeman was called Appozai, named after a village situated two kilometres away. The Zhob river (410 km in length) springs from the Kan Metarzai range and adopts a North-eastern course passing close to Zhob city to flow into the Gomal river near Khajuri Kach.	

Ziarat	
District Status	July 01, 1986
Geographical Area	1,487 Square kilometres.
Administrative Units	2 Tehsils and 7 Union Councils.
Tribes and Ethnic Groups	Pathan (Tribes: Kakar, Ghilzai, Bruhi, Syeds), Bruhis
Language	Pashto
Climate	The months of January - March in winter and July - August in summer receive most of the rainfall. In winter, the temperature often falls well below zero Celsius. The temperature ranges from -16° to 20°C. Ziarat area is refreshingly cool in summer.

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