



Consortium for  
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Policy Research

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# Political Violence in Pakistan: Myths vs. Realities

## About the project

**Funded by:** International Growth Center (IGC)

**Key Counterpart:**

**Impact:** This was a pioneer effort to document and quantify political violence trends in Pakistan, and the national and sub-national level.

*This policy brief was prepared by Jacob Shapiro (Princeton) and Saad Gulzar (IGC) based on research conducted by Jacob Shapiro and Rasul Baksh Rais (LUMS) which aims to understand and present empirical evidence of subnational patterns of violence in Pakistan.*

## In brief

- Despite a long history of political violence, there have been no systematic efforts to study the scale, scope, or geographic distribution of the problem.
- The researchers look at political violence through two critical questions: i) why have some regions at some periods been more peaceful than at other times, and ii) why has violent political activity suddenly taken off in places that had been peaceful for decades?
- To do this, incident-level data was developed from 1988 to the present, which included a range of details on 27,555 incidents in order to identify broad patterns of violence across multiple actors and types of events for each district and province of Pakistan.

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