

## **“The Wars Within: Explaining State Strategies of Consolidation in Civil Conflict”**

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My project seeks to explain why states choose different responses to challenges by sub-national movements. Much policy and academic discourse on state efforts to repel challenges is plagued by a Western-model bias that overstates foreign expeditionary forces and neglects the state-building complexities of indigenous state governments on their soil. To correct this bias, my project differentiates the constraints faced by domestic incumbents versus foreign occupiers. It then conceptualizes the variable of consolidation strategy and identifies a theory of center-periphery relations to explain conditions under which different state strategies will be employed in contested zones. Focusing primarily on Pakistan but also other South Asian cases, it tests this theory with data from interviews, journalistic accounts, government documents and statistical archives through extensive field research in Pakistan (some completed, some anticipated). By exploiting between-case and within-case variations over time and over each country's regions, it will identify why particular strategies are adopted.