

## **RESTRICTED**

### **ABSTRACT**

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan, which lies along the sensitive Pakistan-Afghanistan border enjoys a strategically distinct position in the subcontinent. Since the creation of Pakistan; FATA although part of Pakistan, continue to enjoy a special political and administrative status within Pakistan and functions as a semi-autonomous region. Pressing circumstances that prevailed at the time of independence forced founder of the nation not to create further tension by consolidating FATA in the national mainstream against the will of tribal elders (*Maliks*). However, as a result of this policy FATA has been mainly governed under the FCR 1901 and pre-partition British rules which kept tribal people deprived of any developments and kept them oppressed under the tribal *Maliks* and ruling elite.

The 9/11 and subsequent events brought FATA into national/international limelight. A series of military operations were conducted to flush terrorists out of FATA (some of which are still in progress). As a result of these military operations, the Government of Pakistan was able to establish strong foothold in the FATA region. Military successes in FATA have ignited an urge into tribal people and government of Pakistan to integrate FATA into national mainstream. On the instructions of Prime Minister of Pakistan, a six members committee was constituted in 2015 for proposing a framework to integrate FATA into national mainstream. Report of the committee on FATA Reforms 2016 has been prepared and forwarded to Prime Minister for approval.

This thesis examines the integration options available to Pakistan for political/administrative mainstreaming of FATA. Existing political and administrative system of FATA has been viewed/analysed to know the weaknesses in existing system. Thesis specifically examines the Government of Pakistan Report of the Committee on FATA Reforms 2016 with a view to identify impediments involved in its implementation. At the end researcher has made an attempt to recommend viable measures for administrative/political mainstreaming of FATA.

**Key Words:** FATA; FCR 1901; tribal Rewaj; Report of the Committee on FATA Reforms 2016