

“Pashtunistan” poses threat to Pakistan

Taliban insurgents responsible for increasing numbers of deadly attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan continue to draw most of their support from the *Pashtun* ethnic group living on both sides of the porous frontier

 **Mainly Pashtun areas**



▶ **Pashtun people:** Are of eastern Iranian origin and form world's largest tribal group, numbering some 43 million

▶ **Homeland:** Pashtun have controlled Afghanistan and north west Pakistan for centuries, fiercely opposing invaders

▶ **Frontier:** Between Afghanistan and Pakistan imposed by Britain in 1893, cutting Pashtun lands in two. Most Pashtuns do not recognise it

▶ **In Afghanistan**
Pashtun is largest ethnic group, 42% of population or about 15 million people

▶ **In Pakistan**
Second largest group, 15% or 28 million people

