

Q: Was Islamization of Zia a need of the time or political propaganda?

INTRODUCTION:

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Islam as a tool for political engineering has been continuously used by the politicians and military to legitimize their role. Similarly Zia played with the sentiments of the people by using name of Islam to legitimize his dictatorial rule that lasted for eleven years. Internal factors like Bhutto's rising popularity among the masses of the people and Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) against Bhutto to establish Nizam-i-Mustafa paved the way for Zia to come in politics. On the other hand external factors like USSR invasion in Afghanistan, US-Saudi led funding was an other forefront for Zia to give legal cover to his treason act. For gaining support of Islamic parties (JUI), Zia used the campaign of Islamization in judicial reforms, Islamic penalty system, economic reform and in educational reforms. As people of the Pakistan are Muslims, most of them favoured the Sharia as law of land while on the other side because of strict penalty and suppression of media, women rights - Hudood Ordinance

of Women rights, media and his Ordinances, he had to hold back his Islamization because of massive movements against his radicalization.

1 Islamization: Political Manipulation

by the use of Islam:

Zia-ul-Haq overthrew the civilian government and claimed for holding elections within three months. But in actual he wanted to perpetuate his rule for which he used Islam as a tool in order to gain the support of the people and Ulema - religious-political parties. Major factors for Zia's Islamization are enumerated below.

1.1 Rising popularity of Bhutto as the masses leader of the masses:

Bhutto was a popular leader among people. He was the supporter of socialism. Pakistan National Alliance who was opponent of Bhutto wanted to establish the Nizam-i-Mustafa. Zia, in order to gain political seat and to legitimize this persecuted, flogged and detained many political opponents. For this, he used Islamization campaign to get people's assertion for his treason act.

1.2 In order to gain the support of Ulema:

Zia was a practicing Muslim. He believed that Pakistan is an Islamic state so he imposed the Shariah Law as the Law of the land and announced Nizam-i-Mustafa in 1979.

Cristopher Jafferlot says that Zia was a man of religious temperament. He introduced the Islamic Ideology and replaced "Unity, Faith and Discipline" with "Iman, Taqwa and Jihad Fisabilillah".

He established Federal Sharia Council and religious courts in order to bring all the statues in alignment with the Islamic laws. So, by using this as a mean, he gained the support of Ulema. These were kind of Religio-Political parties. So, by the association of Mullah, it formed Mullah-Military Intervention. And Zia became ~~sucess~~ successful in gaining his self interests.

-iii- Pakistani Jihadist Islam as a result of Soviet incursion in Afghanistan:

One of the major factors which was an opportunity for Zia to legitimize his role was USSR invasion in Afghanistan.

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US-capitalist funded Pakistan
for Mujahideen to fight against
USSR-communist and push it
back out of an Islamic state
of Afghanistan.

According to Tauqir Hussain (diplomat),
Zia in his regime started to introduce
new perspective of Jihad. He gave it
the meaning of Offensive Jihad as
compared to the Defensive Jihad. US
wanted to resist USSR-communist, so it funded
Pakistan to get infantry of Mujahideen.

Due to this Islam Jihadist Movements were
established and exacerbated the number
of militant organization. Mujahideen were
encouraged to fight against Russian military
in proxy war. So, Islamization had its deep
roots within the state provoked by Zia-ul-Haq
in Pakistan.

Saudi funding in Pakistan against

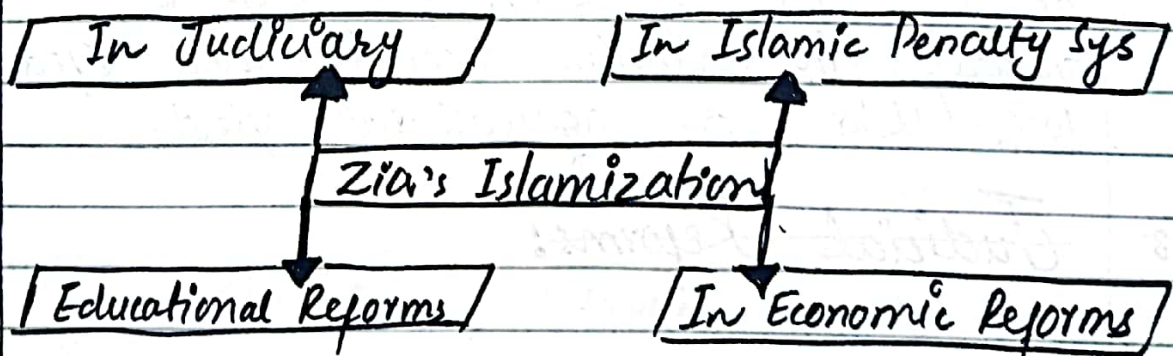
Iranian Revolution:

As there was Iranian Revolution by Shia
Revolutionist Ayatollah Khomeini. Saudi Arabia
was traumatized by this. So Saudi Arabia
funded Pakistan in Jihad war and to
persecute Shia in Pakistan. This led
to Shia-Sunni sectarian fights which
dug its roots deep down that it still

exists here. Because of two momentous regional establishments in 1979, the Iranian Revolution and Soviet Occupation, Zia gained its self-strategic goal by institutionalizing the merger of political power and religious-radicalism. Thus Saudi-US led financing against USSR and religious exploitation of Islam by Zia for his personal benefits gave a legal cover to his campaign.

2: STEPS for Zia's Islamization:

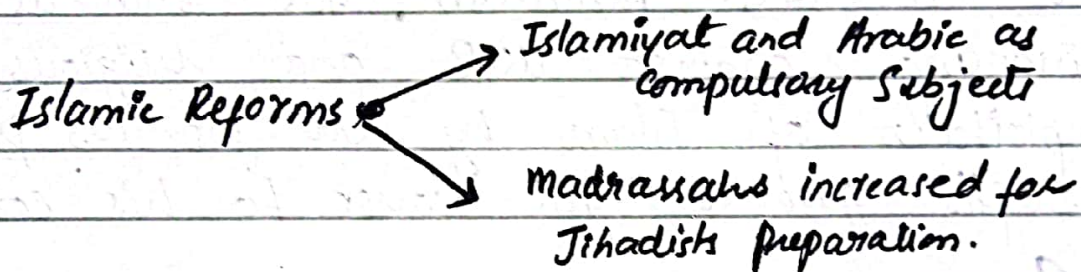
Pakistan is an Islamic state, so the people of Pakistan believe in Islamic Ideology, they believe that Separation of East Pakistan was also the result of deviation from Islam. As Islam stands for equality and justice. In order to legitimize his dictatorship Zia brought Islamic reforms in four major areas.



2.1 Islamic Reforms in Educational System:

Zia completely transformed the Educational system on basis of Islamic principles. Islamiyat and Arabic were made compulsory subjects in many degree programs such as B.A, B.Sc, M.A, Engineering, M.B.B.S and Nursing.

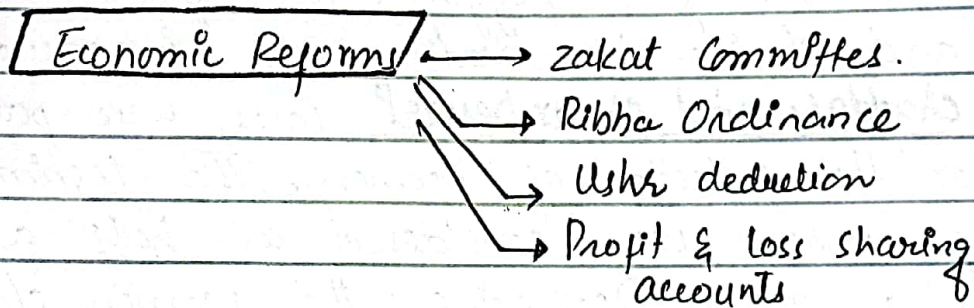
Number of Madrassahs were increased. Students were encouraged to Jihad and many brave, jihadist students were used in infantry against USSR war. Extra marks were announced for Hafiz-i-Quran in exams. Books on democracy were burnt and strict Islamic principles were set



2.2 Islamic Economic Reforms:

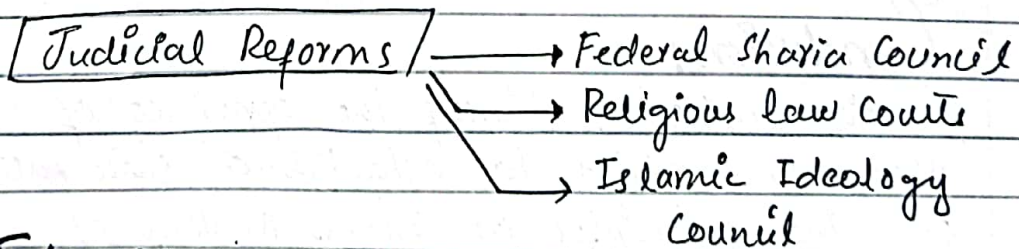
Zia introduced Islamic financing that was not based on Riba; paying interest. Instead he introduced Profit-loss sharing accounts. For this he instituted Riba Ordinance in 1979. For collection of Zakat, he established Zakat Committees at central, Provincial, district & local levels. Zakat was collected on the first day of Ramzan. Zakat was deducted at the rate of 2.5% per 3000/- Rs annually in Muslim accounts and 10% Ushr on agricultural yield.

Economic Reforms • → Zakat



2.3 Judicial Reforms:

To bring all the legislation and statutes in constitutional document in alignment with Islamic laws, he established Federal Sharia Council, Religious law courts and Islamic Ideology council. Federal shariat court had the jurisdiction to null and void any law, find against Islamic Injunctions and to hear the appeal against the decree or decision of lower courts, high court and Supreme Court.



2.4 Establishment of Islamic Penalty System:

New ordinances were introduced in Islamic Penalty System. Such as Hudood Ordinance. Zia's sign was the first time when such strict ordinances were implemented.

"Haddud Ordinance" was introduced in 1979, in which punishments would be given according to the Islamic laws. Such as in order to deal with adultery, theft, liquor, drug; flogging, lashing, prison and stoning to death was introduced. Chaddar and Chaar Devari laws were passed for the protection of women. The testimony of woman was considered as half as of a man. Decreasing the women status was condemned by civil society. And stood against these so-called Sharia of General Zia. If a woman was a victim of rape she had to give four witnesses otherwise she would be accused by adultery and stoned to death.

Example: Safia case, Safia who was raped, not being able to provide witnesses she was accused of adultery.

So, these orthodox military rule had to hold back its Sharia law due to vigorous opposition by civil society.

Conclusion:

Zia considered himself the appointee of Allah and tried to establish a state fully on the principles of Islam. Muslims of Pakistan wanted the rule of Sharia law. So, he played with the religious sentiments of the Muslims and by political manipulation by the name of Islamic he legitimized his dictatorial rule. It would not be wrong to say it was a more political propaganda to get religious

leaders support by the exploitation of religious sentiments.