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Q: Pakistan's national culture reflects unity in diversity. Elaborate.

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## INTRODUCTION

The National Culture of Pakistan is the blend of multiple diverse ethnic groups including Punjabis, Sindhis, Pashtuns, and Balochs. Every ethnic group has its own cultural norms and values which blend and beautifully form the National culture of Pakistan. This diversity of ethnic groups reflects unity due to the binding force, ideology and Islamic teachings, which furthermore integrates the national peace and security. Throughout the history Non-state actors and rival forces tried to disintegrate the nation but remained failed. As Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said, "There is no power of Earth that can undo Pakistan." Pakistan comes under the

Diverse cultural countries of the world. The mutual respect and maintaining internal sovereignty; reflects the mutual cooperation of the people in maintaining peace and harmony.

## IDEOLOGY OF PAKISTAN: FOUNDATION OF UNITY

Although the Muslim reformers like, Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi and Shah Waliullah have understood the value of a separate state for preserving pure Muslim identity, the Wave of Independence and activism of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan made the Muslim nation more realization of a need of a separate state. Later on, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Qasid-e-Ajam Muhammad Ali Jinnah made this realization possible by winning an independent state for Muslims from colonial power.

## CHANGE IN SIR SYED'S VIEWS; URDU-HINDI CONFLICT:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, initially, was a strong advocate of Hindu-Muslim unity as he used to say, "Hindu and Muslim are beautiful eyes of a charming bride". The Hindi-Urdu conflict changed his mind. After the conflict he tilted his activism towards Muslims' education only. He started believing that Hindus and Muslims are two separate and totally different social systems and cannot be integrated together. He also wrote the letter to the first Muslim

president of Indian National Congress, criticizing the world national that "India is inhabited by different social groups and the word National is so irrelevant to the current dynamics of India."

## ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL - STRONG ADVOCATE OF TWO NATION THEORY:

Throughout his life, Allama Muhammad Iqbal had tried to reinforce the Muslim identity among the Muslims of the sub-continent, whether in the form of speeches or poetry. The most famous Allahbad Address can be considered as a corner stone of the independence of Pakistan. Allama Iqbal also argued that Muslims are totally different from Hindus in terms of religious values and traditions. By living within the mixed religious groups Muslims have already lost the Islamic tendency and further living in such diverse state can totally manipulate the real Islamic teachings. He used to encourage people through his famous poems. For example, Allama Iqbal says in his famous Jawab-e-Shikwa,

قومِ مزب سے ہے مزب جو ہیں تم ہی ہیں  
جذبِ باجم جو ہیں، محفلِ اجم ہی ہیں۔

## QUAID-E-AZAM MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH - ACTIVISM FOR A SEPARATE STATE:

Nurtured among the pro-separate state, Jinnah was also born of a belief that Muslims and Hindus are two different nations. Quaid-e-Azam said in a speech that "How can such nations live together in which one's heroes are the intruders for others." Further,

Congress ministries (1937), fueled the separatist ideology and muslim witnessed the cruelty and enmity of Hindus against muslims. Quaid-e-Azam M.A Jinnah also pointed out the significant differences ~~and~~ of rituals and traditions among the two nations.

## DIVERSE NATIONAL CULTURE OF

### PAKISTAN

#### PUNJAB:

Punjab is the most ~~populous~~ populous and prosperous province of Pakistan. It has the significant contribution in the GDP. Punjab is also called the land of Sufi due to the famous shrines of Bahuddin Zakariya Multan, Farid uddin Masood Ganj-e-shakar, and Data Ali Khan Hajveri. Punjab is rich in culture and different from other provinces.

#### SINDH:

The people who live in Sindh are called Sindhis. Sindh is also known as Bab-ul-Islam because of the famous Muhammad Bin Qasim entry in the sub-continent. Sindhis are the old civilization, as its name reflects its roots "Ind (Indus) - Hind - Sindh". Sindhis are also rich in culture and are famous for their hospitality.

#### KHYBER-PAKHTUN KHWA:

The Khyber Pakhtun Khwa is itself a diverse province. Its people have roots with the Pashtun

Empire. The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are famous for their working manner. It has a long history with the bordering areas of Afghanistan. Pashtuns are also famous for their bravery and commitment to the national integrity.

## BALUCHISTAN:

Baluchistan is the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area. It is inhabited by different tribes. For example, Bugti, Zehri, Khan of Kalat etc. Balochs are famous for their bravery and resistance. This province is the only province that wasn't under the control of colonial power due to their resistance and fighting tactics. The people of Baluchistan also play harmonic role in maintaining ~~the~~ nation maintaining national integrity.

## NATIONAL UNITY

### FIRM IDEOLOGICAL BASIS:

The people of Pakistan, no matter from which province or ethnic groups do they belong, understand and believe that Pakistan was made for Muslims, not for Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtun, or Baloch. This mentality ensures that the people from different ethnic groups are standing under the one umbrella of Islam. The Activism of Prominent Muslim League politician shows that the state is made for a Muslims can practice their religion peacefully without any fear. After the separation, people of Pakistan have same national interest.

## CONFRONTING ANTI-STATE ELEMENTS:

From its inception Pakistan is confronting anti-state elements in the form of Pashtun movement fuelled by Afghanistan and Baluch liberation Fedaration (BLF), fuelled by Indian agencies. But with the mutual support of people Pakistan forces are able to eliminate the threat of disintegrations.

## CONFORMING TO ISLAMIC TEACHINGS:

The main reason behind this unity amidst the diverse nature of provinces is conforming to the teachings of Islam which are totally against of racism and discrimination of other people. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says,

"A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim. He does not oppress him, nor does he leave him at the mercy of others." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

## CONCLUSION

Pakistan reflects unity amidst the presence of multiple ethnic groups is just because of multiple layers of strong ideological basis and conforming to the teaching of Islam. For Pakistani people, Islamic teachings are the first priority over cultural differences and this also displays the beauty of Islam that how a religion is working as a binding force for the sake of peace, harmony and national integration.