

Evaluate the factional politics of the early years (1947-58) and their impact on the democratic process.

## Introduction:

Since the independence, Pakistan is in a political inflex but the era of 1947 to 58 was considered as the most important because of the political unrest and the escalating situation to undermine democracy.

## An era of instability from 1947 to 58:

According to the independence act of 1947 or the 3rd June plan, the governor general would be appointed by the British government. Quaid-e-Azam was appointed as the first governor general of Pakistan and formed first constituent assembly, and appointed Liaquat Ali Khan as first Prime Minister of Pakistan.

## **Quaid-e-Azam's death; 1948:**

- After the death of Quaid-e-Azam, Khawaja Nazim-ud-din was appointed as governor general.

## **Rawalpindi Conspiracy:**

In 1951, a military coup was attempted against the prime minister Liaquat Ali Khan. It was led by general Akbar Khan.

The reasons that were against his government was that, many Pakistani officers viewed that continued presence of British officers in his rule, in the Pakistani army was a security threat, also they disagreed with govt's way of handling the Kashmir war with India.

## **Liaquat Bagh Incident:**

On 16 October, 1951, P.M Liaquat Ali Khan was assassinated and Khawaja Nazim-ud-din was appointed as Premier.

**Ghulam Muhammad as**

## the governor general:

Since Pakistan was governed by the India Act of 1935 and the governor general was appointed by the British queen. It is evident that the governor general served the British government to its full capacity. When Ghulam Muhammad was appointed as the governor general in 1951, he overthrown the Nazim-udin and appointed M. Ali Bogra.

## Bogra formula and the Struggle for Constitution Making:

Although the objective resolution was passed in 1949, but the struggle for a stable constitution was still there. M. Ali Bogra took the initiative but the role of British power intervened directly. However, Bogra given a formula a federal system with a unicameral legislature, in which a total of 300 seats of the

national assembly would be provided representation on the basis of proportion of population and the 50 seats of senate would given equal representation to all the five provinces of Pakistan. But as the process for constitution making proceeds, it was clear that the power of governor general would be reduced in the federal system.

### **Ghulam Muhammad Appointed Muhammad Ali as PM:**

The indirect interventions from the British empire was manifested when the governor general dismissed Bogra and appointed Muhammad Ali as the Prime Minister in 1955, in his term the constitution making was proceeded and completed in 1956.

### **Promulgation of 1956 Constitution and the first President:**

In 1956, the first constitution

of Pakistan was promulgated on 23, march. By this enforcement the first president of Pakistan was become Iskander Mirza. Unfortunately, his rule was also seen as a stable era for democracy.

## Undermining of Democracy:

The whole decade from 1947 to 1958 was era to undermine the democratic system.

## Delaying of Constitution and the unnecessary indirect intervention of British Government:

It took nine years for Pakistan to make a constitution which was an extreme necessity of the time, but the India who also got independent with Pakistan, became successful in making its first constitution in 1950. Moreover, the continuous indirect intervention by the

British government adds fuel to the fire. Both these reasons helped to affect the democratic process negatively.

### **Unequal representation; claimed by East Pakistan:**

The unequal political representation also paved the way to curtail democracy in the early era. East Pakistan claimed that they are not given their due representation in the political system.

### **6 Prime Ministers were appointed and dismissed from 1951 to 1958:**

The continuous appointment and the dismissing of the Prime Ministers was also a cause to undermine democracy in the country. A stable government is required to ensure the smooth democratic system, which was lacking.

## Conclusion:

The factional politics by the early politicians to fulfill their own purposes, de-escalated the path for democracy and it paved the way for military rule, because a long term government is required to implement policies and bear fruits, in which the early civilian governments failed.

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