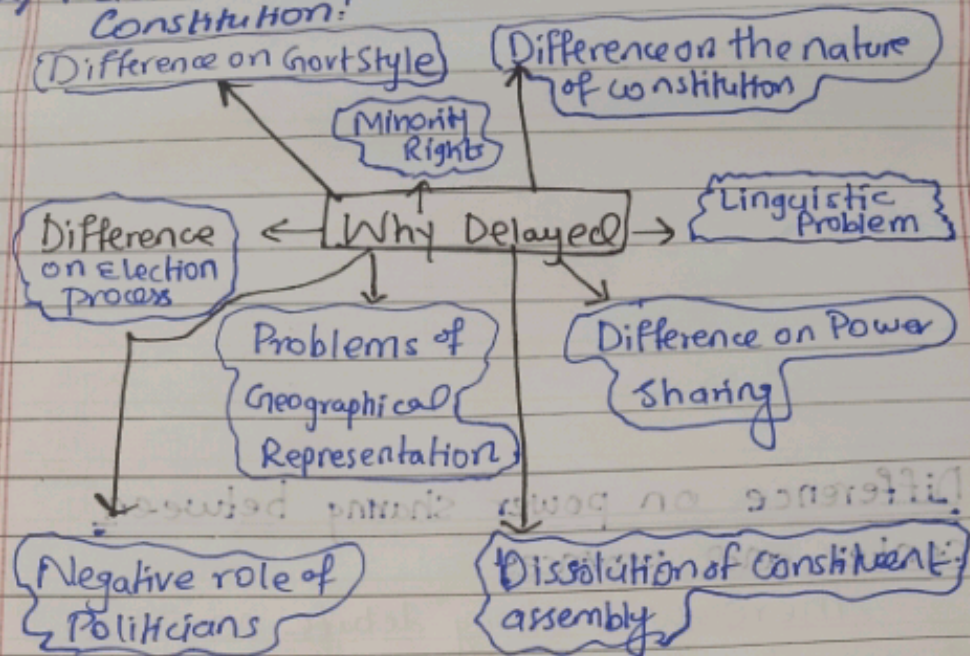


Q. What factors contributed to the delay of constitution making process in the early years of Pakistan? Discuss in Detail.

1- Introduction

After the World War II, Political circumstances showed Partition of India was needed of the time. Jinnah was busy all the time in handling British and Hindu leadership for paving way for Pakistan. After creation of Pakistan, death of Quaid-e-Azam was one of the main reasons in delaying constitution making process. Constituent assemblies paid least attention to the task of framing Constitution. After the assassination of Liaqat Ali Khan, democratic leadership failed in taking decisions on time. Transfer of power between central and Provincial Government was not decided. Due to linguistic issue, hatred was spread among people of East and West Pakistan. Structure of Federal Government and representation of Provinces was still a question mark. There was confusion in opting Presidential or Parliamentary form of Government. Along with these obstacles, Personal Interests of politicians, Bureaucrats and Establishment contributed to the delay of making process of Constitution in the early years of Pakistan.

2) Factors Responsible for delayed Constitution:



2a. Differences on Government Style

Some leaders were supporting Presidential system while others were supporting Parliamentary system. There was not a consensus. Usually Politicians from East Pakistan were in favour of Parliamentary system, and Politicians from West Pakistan were supporting Federal system. So, there was difference on Government style.

2b. Difference on the nature of Constitution

The liberal leaders were supporting liberal Constitution that will accept all communities. But, Religious Parties promoted a concept of theocratic constitution. Debates in Constituent assemblies and amendments were on its zenith. This difference on the nature delayed constitution making process.

Linguistic Problem

There were differences on selection of national language. East Pakistan demanded a Bengali language as an official language. On the other hand, West Pakistan supported Urdu as a national language. Because of this linguistic problem, our leaders were not able to take decision on time.

Difference on power sharing between center and provinces

There was a strong debate on power sharing between East and West wing. East Pakistan's stance was to transfer more power to provinces, and less to center rose conflict in West Pakistan.

West Pakistan and its leadership was of opinion that all power would be transfer to center and provinces were not strong to much extent. These clashes delayed constitution making process.

2e Problem of geographical representation

East Pakistan demands more representation on basis of more population. Their population was 54 percent. On the other hand, the population of West Pakistan was 46 percent. East Pakistan was demanding fifty four percent

representation, while West Pakistan was demanding equal representation for both wings, on the basis of geographical units. This is another factor responsible for delaying in constitution making process.

2f Difference on election process

Before 1947, there was system of Separate Electorate for Muslims. After 1947 liberal electorates demand Joint Electorate but Islamic Parties were demanding Separate Electorate for minorities. Because of this difference of Separate Electorate and Joint Electorate, the constitution could not make on time.

2g Problems of minority rights:

Minority were demanding more rights in the Government system. For instance, Right to become Prime Minister. But, Islamic Parties were not in favour of giving these rights to the non-Muslims. In one of the memoranda submitted to the Constituent Assembly by the minority communities; it was demanded that the Hindus should get representation in legislature not only according to their numbers but also some weightage should be given to them.

2h) Political Barrenness

After the death of Quaid-e-Azam, Liaqat Ali Khan continued the legacy of Quaid-e-Azam. In 1951 after the martyrdom of Liaqat Ali Khan, there was no leader who could unite the both wings. There was Political Barrenness in the political arena of Pakistan. There was no such a leader who could unite both wings. The fall of Government and changing of PM one after the another created hurdles in completion of task of constitution.

2i) Negative role of Bureaucracy and Politicians

Role of Bureaucracy and Politicians including Sikandar Mirza and Chhuhim Muhammad was only on basis of their self interests.

The process of completion of constitution was not their priority. Power games were on peak. The sessions of constituent assembly were delayed, but these people were busy in conspiracies.

2j) Dissolution of Constituent Assembly

First constituent assembly was dissolved before the constitution of 1956. This was unconstitutional.

The dissolution of the Constituent Assembly

threw the country into chaos and confusion by reviving old rivalries and reopening old controversies. It is true that the first constituent assembly had made undue delay in framing constitution of Pakistan.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, there was no single reason which had to be addressed by the constituent assembly. After creation of Pakistan, the Political maturity was lacking in the country. The early death of Quaid-e-Azam and Liaqat Ali Khan created a Political gap. During this enormous period of 9 years, the country had seen several crest and trough in various grounds and particularly in field of immature politics. The promulgation of an immediate constitution was much need for the country, but unfortunately such could not be done immediately and it took a long period of 9 years time after facing many controversies.
