

Q. Do you agree that Pakistan was achieved by "Jinnah" through the constitutional democratic process for the sake of constitutional democracy?

Introduction

A leader is a person who understands all categories of the people whom he is leading and works to make them united around himself, or the organization or a nation with a certain specified vision. Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah possessed all these qualities. He struggled for the achievement of the sacred goal of Pakistan in a constitutional manner. The demand for the establishment of Pakistan was, therefore, a demand for the right of self-determination of the Muslims as a nation. For the achievement of this right, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah launched a constitutional and democratic movement. Jinnah's vision for Pakistan was rooted in the desire for a separate nation where

muslims could freely practice their religion and have political representation. However, he did utilize constitutional and democratic processes in his pursuit of this goal.

(2) Role of Jinnah: An Overview

Jinnah played a decisive role in articulating the muslim demands and pursuing these faced strong opposition from the Hindus and the British-

Political Career (1906) INA



Joined Muslim League (1913)



Lucknow Pact 1916 (efforts of Hindu-Muslim Unity)



1920 (cut off Congress)



Retaliated forcefully on Nehru Report (1928)



Jinnah Fourteen points (1929)

Addressing Second Round table Conference
1932: (Against Hindu-Muslim unity)



Staunch believer of two nation theory
(1937 and 1939 → Asserted that Hindu-
Muslim are separate nations)



1940 → Resolution of Pakistan
[Emphasis on separate nation]



His speeches prove him as a
great constitutionalist and democrat

3) Quaid-i-Azam: A staunch supporter of Democracy

He was in favour of creating a
modern democratic state that follows
the principles of Islam. In this context,
Maleeha Lodhi, in her book Pakistan
beyond the Crisis state, defines that
Mountbatten suggested that Jinnah
follow their Muslim Empire - Akbar, but
he refused by saying, "Why should
I follow others when we (Muslims)

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have the greatest leader of time -
Muhammad (P.B.U.H). Therefore, he
chose a modern democratic state where
every citizen gets their rights. To highlight
this, in her book *The sole spokesman*,
Ayesha Jalal aptly remarked that
Jinnah's vision of Pakistan was not just
an Islamic state but a democratic one
where all citizens, regardless of their
religion, would be equal participants.
Therefore, his vision to protect every
citizen's rights made him great
constitutionalist.

4) Jinnah's views on role of state

Moreover, Jinnah's view on the
role of state and the Federal Government
were totally supportive of the protection
of rights of Pakistan. While addressing
the students at the Dhaka, he said
that the first duty of state is to
maintain law and orders so that
the life, property and religious beliefs
of its subjects are fully protected by

state. On the other hand, he highlighted that if we want to make this great State of Pakistan happy and prosperous, we should wholly and solely concentrate on well-being of people, especially masses of poor.

5) Jinnah's concept of Appointment and Removal of Government

Similarly, when he was asked by students in Dhaka on 21 March 1948 about the appointment and removal of the government, he replied that Government should come into power through elections to the federal and provincial assemblies. But if the Government does not perform in the interest of the people, the procedure outlined in the constitution should be adopted through vote of no confidence, which is to be exercised as provided in the constitution.

5) Base of constitution of Pakistan according to Jinnah:

On November 25, 1947, in an interview with the Egyptian Journalists, made it clear that the "constitution of Pakistan will be based on Islamic principles and tenets." Addressing the All India Muslim League (AIML) Council at Karachi on December 14 and 15, 1947, Jinnah said, "Pakistan is going to be a muslim state based on Islamic ideals."

On February 14, 1948, while addressing Shahi Durbar, Sibbi, Jinnah explained the concept of democracy in his words "It is my belief that our salvation lies in the following the golden rules of conduct set for us by our great lawgiver, the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (PBUH)."

2) Ultimate shape of constitution in Jinnah's perspective

In a broadcast speech to the people of United States of America, which was recorded on February 26, 1948

he said, "The constitution of Pakistan has yet to be framed by the Pakistan's Constituent Assembly. I don't know what the ultimate shape of constitution is going to be, but I am sure that it will be of democratic type, embodying the essential principles of Islam....."

7) Conclusion

In a nutshell, Jinnah had never stated and favoured either a secular or a theocratic state. He had always mentioned that the bases of Pakistan would be laid on democracy embodying all the essential tenets of Islam.

Quaid-i-Azam was determined, optimistic and convinced to make Pakistan a democratic and welfare state in the true sense of the word. To sum up this with the quote of Huseyn Shaheed Shrawardy - former PM of Pakistan, "He (Jinnah) was a great democrat and a great constitutionalist, He had faith in

the constitution of and the rule of law. He had strong principles, and he lived upto them."

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