

Political evolution Since 1971.

Since 1971, Pakistan has undergone significant political evolution. This period marks a time of major shifts, challenges, and transformations in the country's political landscape. In the aftermath of 1971 war that resulted in the formation of Bangladesh, Pakistan experienced a tumultuous transition. The military regime of Yahya Khan gave way to a civilian govt led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Bhutto's tenure saw the implementation of socialist policies & the nationalisation of industries, which aimed to address social justice & economic inequality. However, his govt face criticism and opposition, leading to protests and eventually a military coup in 1977. The military ruler, Gen Zia-ul-Haq, introduced an era of authoritarian rule & Islamization significantly influencing Pakistan's political trajectory. Zia's regime imposed strict restrictions on political parties & reduced civil liberties. The 1988 death of Zia brought an end to military rule and opened a new chapter in Pakistan's political evolution. The subsequent years witnessed a series of govt's that alternated b/w civilian and military administrations, characterized by periods of democratic progress & authoritarian setbacks. Despite these challenges, the political landscape in Pakistan has continued to undergo evolution, with multiple political parties & leaders playing significant role in shaping the country's political destiny.

Pakistan has undergone several significant political developments since 1971 and as follows:

A) Constitution & Governance:

In 1973, Pakistan adopted a new democratic system with a president as the head of the state and a prime minister as the head of the govt. This marked the transition from military rule to civilian governance.

B) Political parties:

Over the years, Pakistan has witnessed the emergence, rise and fall of various political parties. Some prominent parties include the PTI, PML-N, PPP, and ANP. These played crucial roles in shaping the country's political landscape.

C) Military Interventions:

Pakistan has experienced several periods of military rule during this period. In 1977, General Zia staged a coup & remained in power until his death in a plane crash in 1988. Gen Pervez Musharraf seized power through a military coup in 1999 & ruled until 2008. These interventions have had a significant impact on Pakistan's political dynamics.

D) Elections and Governments:

Pakistan has held several elections since 1971, resulting in the formation of different governments. The political landscape has seen shifts in power b/w various parties.

with Coalitions and alliances being formed to secure majority in the NA.

e) Provincial Autonomy and Ethnic movements:

The political landscape in Pakistan has been shaped by demands for provincial autonomy and ethnic rights. Movements such as the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) have been advocating for greater autonomy and representation for their respective regions.

f) Judicial activism:

In judicial years, Pakistan's judiciary has played an active role in the political scene. Landmark judgments and Court interventions have influenced the course of politics and governance, highlighting the importance of the judiciary as a key institution.

g) Social media and political activism:

The rise of social media has significantly impacted political discourse in Pakistan. It has provided a platform for political activists, journalists and citizens to voice their opinions, criticize the govt and mobilize support for various causes.

h) The China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

In recent years the CPEC initiative has become a major focus of Pakistan's political discourse. It has the potential to reshape the country's economy and has sparked debates on its implications for national ~~sovereignty~~ sovereignty, security and regional geo-politics.

Phases of Governance

1. Post Independence & early years (1947-1971)

After the partition of India in 1947, Pakistan was established as an independent nation comprising East Pak (Present day Bangladesh) and West Pakistan (Present-day Pakistan). Pakistan witnessed political instability, economic challenges, and regional tensions during its early years. In 1971, a civil war and political turmoil led to the separation of East Pakistan, which became Bangladesh. The period was marked by the political dominance of the West Pakistan establishment, with limited democratic institutions and military interventions.

GDP Growth Average GDP was around 4.8 per year.

Literacy rate was around 19% in 1970

2. Military rule and Islamization (1977-1988)

General Zia seized power in a military coup in 1977. Zia implemented a strict form of Islamization, introducing laws based on Islamic principles and promoting a conservative social and cultural environment. During this period, political parties and civil liberties were suppressed, and the military held significant control over governance.

GDP 6.5 per year.

Literacy Increased to around 33% by 1988.

3. Transition to democracy (1988-1999)

After Zia's death in 1988, a transition of democracy began in Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto of the Pakistan People's Party

Became the 1st female PM of Pakistan in 1988. Political instability, corruption and tensions b/w the civilian govt & the military characterized this phase.

Leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League alternated in power but were both confronted with governance challenges.

4- Literacy rate increased to around 4.1% per year
Military rule and the war on terror (1999-2008)

General Pervez Musharraf took power in bloodless coup in 1999. Musharraf ruled as both the Chief Executive and president of Pak. During this period, Pak became a key ally of the US in the War on terror, leading to domestic and regional political complexities.

Musharraf faced criticisms for suppressing political dissent, curbing media freedoms, and lack of adherence to democratic principles.

GDP growth: around 4.8 per year

Literacy rate: increased to 57% by 2008

5- Democratization and Challenge (2008-2018).

In 2008, Pakistan witnessed a return to democracy with the Pakistan Peoples' Party led by Benazir widower, Asif Ali Zardari.

The period was marked by the rise of Imran Khan and his Party (PTI). The Govt face numerous challenges, including a faltering economy, political instability, corruption

scandals and security issues. Nawaz Sharif became prime minister in 2013, but his tenure was marred by corruption allegations and political tensions.

6- Current political dynamics: 2018-present
Imran Khan and his PTI party won the 2018 general elections and formed the government. The current government has focused on governance reforms, and anti-corruption measures and socio-economic development. However, it has faced challenges including an economic crisis, governance hurdles, criticism over media freedom, and opposition from other political parties.

GDP: 1.6 per year
literacy rate: 64% by 2022