

Pakistan: Islamic state vs secularism

The official religion of Pakistan is Islam, as mentioned in the Article 2 of the constitution;

“Islam to be state religion.”

Pakistan is enriched by numerous religions, Muslims comprises of 96.1% of population, ^{while} Hinduism, Christianity, Ahmadiyya, and Sikhism etc ^{comprise of} remaining 4.0%.

In contrast to above, ~~many~~ few aspects of secularism have been opted by constitution of Pakistan from British colonial concept. The articles 20, 21, 22 and 25 incorporates concepts of secularism in Pakistan's constitution:

Article 20:

“Freedom to profess religion and manage religious institutions.”

Article 21:

“Safeguard against taxation for purposes of any particular religion.”

Article 22:

“Safeguard as to educational institutions in respect of the religion, etc.”

Article 25:

“Equality of the citizens.”

Quaid-e-Azam presidential address of 1947, provides the hint that Muhammad Ali Jinnah wanted Pakistan to be a secular, liberal and free democratic state.

In addition to above, from 1947-1955 Pakistan declared as a secular state. Then, in 1956 constitution Pakistan declared

as Muslim state for the first time.

However, Islamic state of Pakistan have mentioned equal rights for all citizens^(minorities) in Pakistan but they still face discrimination subject to violence and blasphemy law.

(There are ~~multiple~~ instances of foster the concept or idea of secularism in Pakistan, like ~~(Khanuja Nazimuddin,~~ and ~~prime minister of Pakistan,~~ argued against)

There are multiple instances to foster the concept or idea of secularism in Pakistan, like in 2015, 17 judges of Supreme court passed a petition to declare Pakistan as secular nation.

In 2019, Naveed Amir, a Christian member of the National Assembly, moved a bill to amend the constitution 41 and 91 of Pakistan, which would allow non-Muslims to become Prime Minister and President. However, Parliament blocked the bill.

Contrary to above, multiple steps also taken to declare Pakistan as Islamic Republic. ~~The~~ Khawaja Nazimuddin, 2nd Prime Minister of Pakistan, argued against equal rights of ~~non-Muslims~~ all citizens in Islamic state. The constitution of Pakistan not allow non-Muslim ^{to become} Prime Minister, President and head of Shariah Court. However, constitution

of Pakistan establishes Islam as state religion and provides all citizen equal right to profess, practice and propogate their religion subject to law, morality and public order.

Hence, Pakistan declared as Islamic state.