

Q: Explain Ideology of Pakistan & its characteristics. (20 Marks)

Ans- Introduction

Ideology is the systematic body of concepts especially about life or culture. It comes from divine guidance or from great minds. It constitutes a system of human life including theories, objectives and assertions of life. In a society, individuals should have common ideology. Ideology can be defined in following ways

"Although, this is often used with negative connotations, I see ideology as an inherent part of culture."
(Dario Fo)

George Lewis defined ideology as:

"Ideology is a plan or program which is based upon philosophy."

Ideology of Pakistan in the Light of Scholars

According to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah:

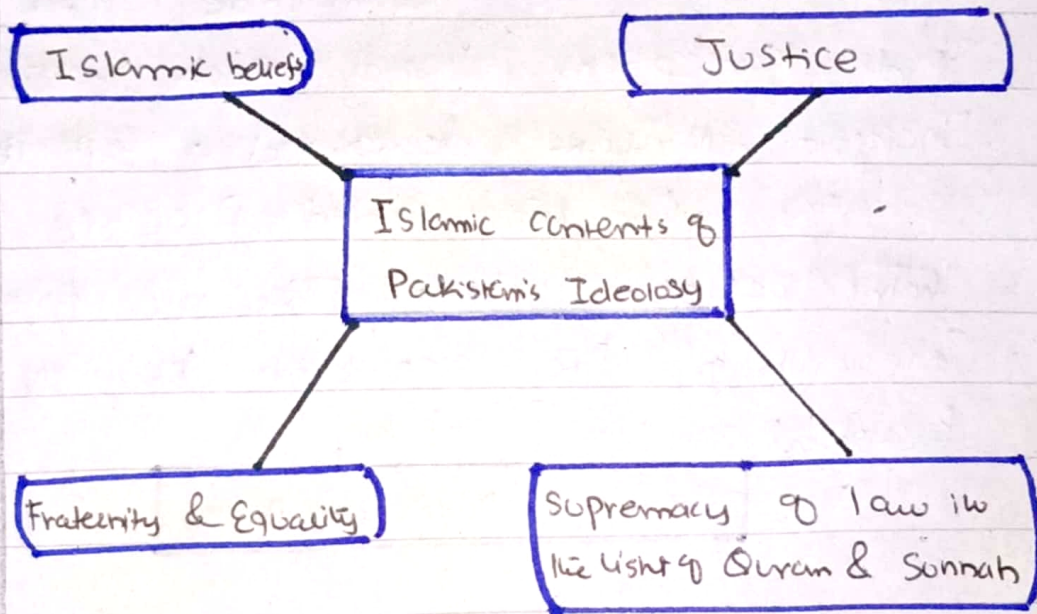
"Pakistan not only means freedom & independence but the Muslim ideology which has to be preserved, which has come to us as a precious gift and treasure and which we hope others will share with us."

"I am fully convinced that the Muslims of India will ultimately have to establish a separate homeland as they could not live with the Hindus in the United States. India is a continent of human beings belonging to different races, speaking different languages, and professing different religions..... I, therefore demand the formation of a consolidated Muslim State is the best interest of India and Islam."

(Allama Iqbal: Allahabad at the Annual Session of Muslim League 1930).

Ideology Of Pakistan And Islam

Normally, the ideology of Pakistan and the Islamic ideology are supposed to be having the same meaning. No doubt, the Islamic ideology is the foundation of the ideology of Pakistan, but both should not be taken as synonyms. Following are the major Islamic contents of Ideology of Pakistan-



Quaid-e-Azam said:

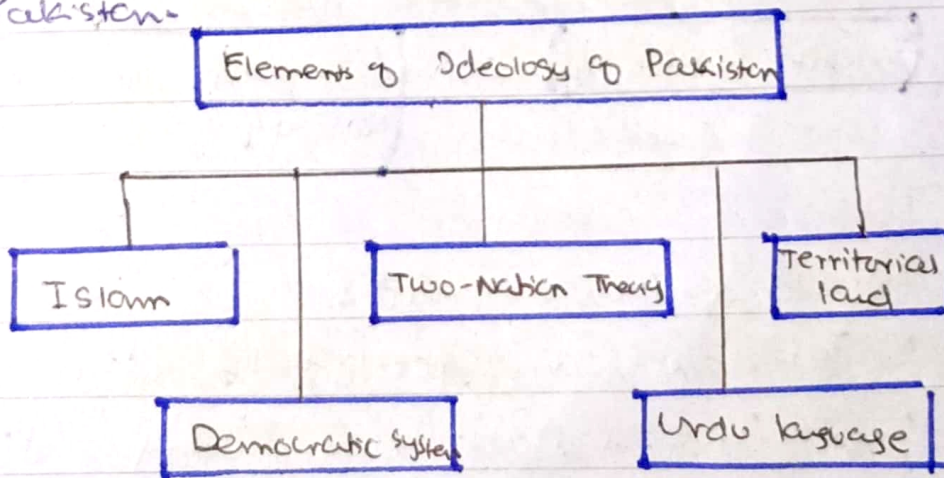
"Pakistan was created the day the first Indian national entered the field of Islam."

From the above statement, it is clear

... that ideology of Pakistan is an Islamic one.

Characteristics of Ideology of Pakistan

Although living in India together for centuries, Hindus and Muslims primarily belong to two different religious doctrines, social customs, and literatures. They belong to civilisations which have incompatible ideas and conceptions towards each other. Therefore, Muslims demanded a separate country where they could practice their religion freely. These are five elements of the ideological base of Pakistan:



1. Islam

The Muslims of Subcontinent are a nation in the true sense. The bases of their nationhood are neither territorial, racial, linguistic nor ethnic, rather they are a nation because they belong to the same faith, Islam. So, they considered it their fundamental right to be entitled to the right of self-determination. They demanded that the Muslims majority areas should be constituted into a separate and sovereign state, wherein they would be enabled to lead their lives freely in accordance with the teachings of Holy Quran and Shariah of Holy Prophet (SAWW). Quaid-e-Azam

Said:

"We do not demand Pakistan simply to have a piece of land but we want a laboratory where we could experiment on Islamic Principles."

2. Two-Nation Theory

The primary concept of ideology is that Muslims should have a get

a separate identity - They should have a separate state where they could lead their lives according to the principles of Islam. Quaid-e-Azam

Said:

"The Muslims demand Pakistan where they can rule in accordance with their own system of life, their cultural development, their traditions and Islamic laws."

Thus, this fundamental concept of ideology led to the concept of two nations in the subcontinent and resulted in the formation of Pakistan. The Two-Nation theory was the basis of struggle for creation of Pakistan.

It implies that Muslims of subcontinent were a nation quite distinct and separate from the Hindus. They in spite of living together for centuries could not forget their individual cultures and civilisation. The founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah made it clear that:

"The Hindus and the Muslims belong to two different civilisations, philosophies, social customs and literature. They neither intermarry, nor inter-dine together, and indeed they belong to two different civilisations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions."

3. Territorial Land

Amongst the components of ideology of Pakistan, land is the most major element - A piece of land was necessary for the existence, stabilisation and promotion of Islamic ideology. Qaid-e-Azam said in his address to Punjab Muslim Students Federation in March 1941,

"Nothing would be achieved simply by raising slogans for nation. We are one nation and the nation cannot survive ~~without~~ⁱⁿ the air, it requires an independent land to settle where it can solve our demands in the same."

4. Democratic System

In an Islamic State, all the affairs are decided on the basis of Shariat (Democracy). In other words, the social, economic, political & the cultural affairs are operated on the basis of mutual consensus and Islamic ideology - democracy.

5. Urdu Language

Language is not only a fundamental characteristic of a nation, but still remains one of the features by which a nation may be distinguished or one of the grounds on which nationalism may be founded.

In the subcontinent, Urdu was considered to be the language of Muslims and Hindi to the Hindus. During the last days of Muslim rule, Urdu emerged as the most common language of the north-western provinces of India. It was declared the official language, and all official records were written in this language.

In 1867, some prominent Hindus

started a movement in Bombay in which they demanded the replacement of Urdu with Hindi, and the Persian script with Devanagiri script. The reason for opposing Urdu was that the language was written in Persian script, which was similar to the Arabic script which was the language of the Quran.

Mawlana Abdul Haque Qasbi said:
"Urdu is the first brick in the foundation of Pakistan."

• Conclusion

From the above discussion, it became clear that Hindus and Muslims were two distinct nations of different religious philosophies. They both could not adjust with each other. Therefore Muslims demanded a separate state based purely on Islamic principles. As a result of the struggle of however, the ideology of Pakistan is Islamic in nature.