

Discuss Zia's Islamization during era of 3<sup>rd</sup> Martial Law. How has it affected current religious trends in country?

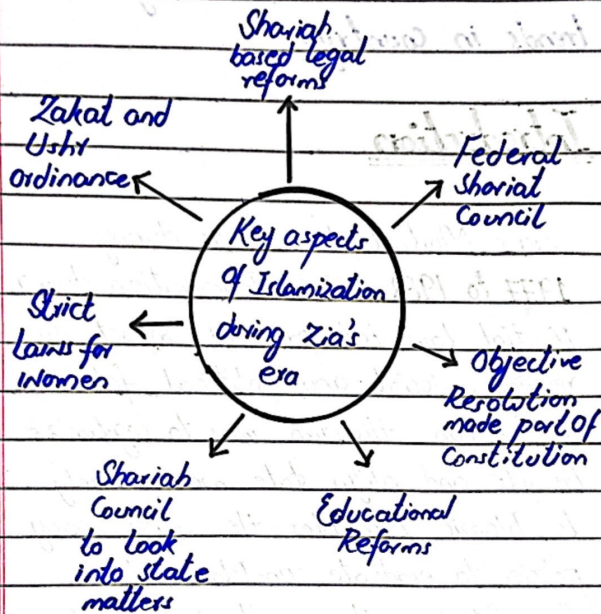
## 1) Introduction

Zia's Martial Law was during 1977 to 1988. Zia's Islamization during Martial Law had profound impacts on religious, social and political fabric of Pakistan. His aim was to legitimize his rule and align state more closely to Islamic principles. He made many policies to eradicate un-Islamic laws from Pakistan. However it led to the promotion of conservative image of Pakistan.

"The ideology of Pakistan is Islam and only Islam. There should be no misunderstanding in this score"

(Gen Zia Ul Haq)

## 2/ Key aspects of Islamization during Zia's 3rd Martial law



### (A) Objective Resolution declared groundnorm of Pakistani Constitutionalism

Zia ul Haq, through presidential order, declared Objective resolution to be a substantive part of constitution. It led judicial attempt to cleanse

all legislative framework that was considered un-Islamic.

"This led, in particular, to various benches of High Courts to declare restriction on triple talaq and polygamy, imposed by Muslim Family Laws Ordinance of 1961, as un-Islamic and void."

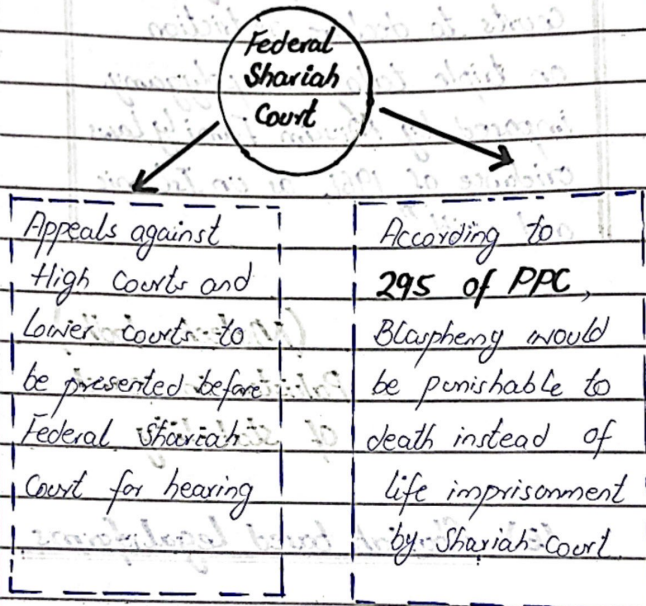
(Malecha Lodhi)

- Pakistan in search of stability

### (B) Shariah based legal reforms

Zia sought to transform legal system of Pakistan according to Islamic law. He introduced **Hudood Ordinance 1979**, which prescribed Islamic punishments for crimes like theft, adultery and alcohol consumption.

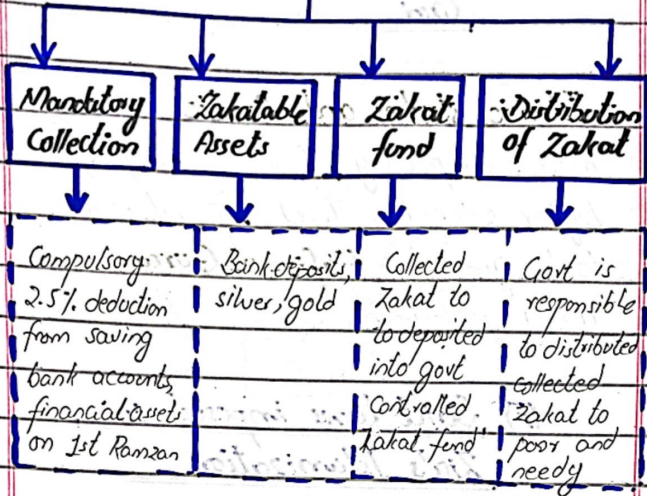
(c) Federal Shariah Court  
was established to decide  
cases in light of Quran  
and Sunnah



(d) Zakat and Ushr Ordinance  
presented during Zia's era

Zia introduced a system of compulsory Zakat and Ushr (tax on agricultural products) to fund welfare programs and religious institutions.

## Zakat Ordinance 1980



5% tax on annual produce of agricultural land paid by landowner at time of harvest

## Ushy Ordinance 1980

Revenue collected from Ushy was intended to be spent on rural welfare including healthcare education

## (E) Educational Reforms made during 3<sup>rd</sup> Martial Law

Islamic studies and Arabic were made compulsory from primary to higher education level. Special marks to be given to Hafiz-e-Quran during professional studies.

## (F) Strict laws imposed in Zia's Islamization

Laws made about women  
in Zia's Islamization

Zia's Islamization program put forward the theory of Chadr aur Char Devari for women

The testimony that men and women are not equal.

If a rape was reported, 4 witnesses were to be provided, otherwise it will be considered as adultery

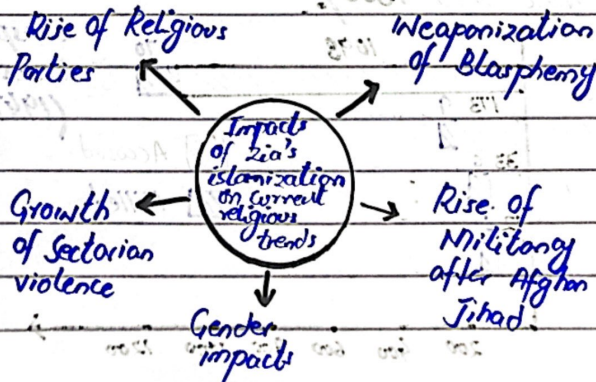
(G) Shariah Council was established to look into state matters with Islamic thought

In media, females were to cover their heads



Azan was recited regularly five times on TV and radio

### 3/ Impacts of Zia's Islamization on Current religious trend in Pakistan



## (A) Rise of Political parties after Zia's Islamization

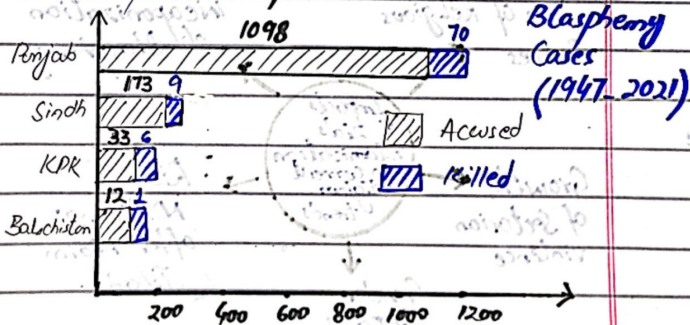
Religious parties like Jamat-e-Islami and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islami gained legitimacy and political space during Zia's rule.

## (B) Weaponization of Blasphemy after Zia's Islamization

Today, accusations of Blasphemy can lead to mob violence, extra judicial killings and public lynchings.

From 1948 to 1978, only 11 cases of Blasphemy were recorded, three of them were extra-judicial killings.

From 1981 to 2021, these cases went up to 1300%.

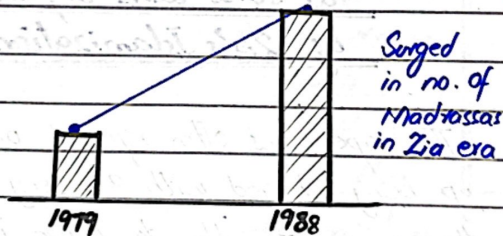




### (c) Rise of Militancy after Afghan Jihad in the time of 3<sup>rd</sup> Martial Law

#### (i) Radicalization of Madrassas

Under Zia, number of Madrassas surged and those in border region were used to recruit and train jihadists for Afghan war. These propagated rigid interpretation of Islam and later contributed to giving rise of Taliban.



#### (ii) Rise of Militant groups

Groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pak and Al-Qaeda are involved in violence in Pakistan and domestic terrorism.

## (D) Growth of Sectarian violence after 3<sup>rd</sup> Martial law

There has been a growth of sectarian violence in Pakistan since 1980. No. of people are being killed on sectarian basis.

Between 2001-2008, over, 2700 people were killed in sectarian violence in Pakistan.

## (E) Women being targeted after strict laws imposed by Zia's Islamization

The rape cases often reported end up being charged with adultery since they were not able to prove it by 4 male witnesses.

**Safia Bibi**, a blind 18 year old was raped by his employer and his son in 1983. Unable to provide testimony of four male witnesses, safia was convicted of adultery.

## 4/ Conclusion

Zia's Islamization attempt was to incorporate principles of Islam in legal, economic and political system of country. It had positive consequences in form of strengthening religious institutions, But it has negative impacts in form of militancy, violence against women, sectarian issues, Blasphemy accusations in Country

"Zia's policies promoted positive impacts in form of social justice and religious awareness. However, it also exacerbated the sectarianism and polarization."

(Ian Talbot)