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Topic - Assorted ~~Questions~~ Questions Pak Studies

Q. Political Stability in Pakistan

~~Introduction~~

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i Introduction

Pakistan was formed in 1947 and its ideology was centered around the philosophy of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and his "Two Nation Theory". Quaid e Azam became the first Governor General of Pakistan and Liaquat Ali Khan was the first prime minister. With the untimely death of the Quaid and the assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan in the events that followed, Pakistan was thrust into troubled waters of political instability.

The dissolving of the constitution by the leaders that succeeded the Quaid further lead to heightened political tensions. In attempts to stabilize the

worsening political scenario, military intervention led to coup d'états and political stability further worsened.

With the passage of time and the death of General Liaqat Khan after an unfortunate plane crash, many different political parties emerged as democracy was restored. Rivalries existed between political parties as they strove for controlling the nation, power and money. Further personal grudges existed between members of different political parties thus rivalries led to hate fueled conflicts which further led to more political instability.

ii. A brief political history of Pakistan

The map of Pakistan was made by Sir Cyril Radcliffe and in 1947, Pakistan was granted independence from India. Viceroy Lord Mountbatten had requested Jinnah that he should be made the first Governor General of Pakistan but the Quaid replied and himself became the leader of the nation as he had struggled to liberate from the Hindu oppression. This minor disagreement had led to Mountbatten's ultimate dissatisfaction thus he favoured India and gave it every opportunity to prosper and overcome Pakistan.

According to the constitution of Pakistan the Prime Minister is the Chief Executive of the Nation. When Jinnah became the governor

general of Pakistan, and Liaquat Ali Khan became the Prime Minister, Jinnah was allowed to exercise his powers as the chief executive because of his wit, experience and the effort he put in laying the foundations of Pakistan were greatly admirable.

After Jinnah's death due to tuberculosis, Khwaja Nizamuddin succeeded Jinnah as the Governor General of Pakistan. Liaquat Ali Khan had now gained powers as the official chief executive of Pakistan but since the roles were not clearly practiced before, this led to disagreements between governor general in terms of policy making, authority and administration. Later on Liaquat Ali Khan was assassinated as well.

Military Coups ~~was~~ and martial laws were implemented by Iskander Mirza, Yahya Khan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the first civilian martial law administrator of Pakistan, Ayub Khan, General Zia ul Haq and General Pervez Musharraf. With implementation of martial laws, the constitution would dissolve as well.

Furthermore, political rivalry between different parties has led to an immature ouster of prime ministers and ruling parties thus leading more instability.

Many political leaders such as Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, aligned with Orinal states as India and further led

to more instability in the nation.

iii) Reasons for Political Instability in Pakistan

iii)a) The Roles of Prime Ministers & Presidents

The roles of prime minister and president has always remained vague in Pakistan. After briefly discussing the history of Pakistan it can be established that after Jinnah's passing, their ~~is~~ was greater confusion over who gets more authority.

During Liaqat Ali Khan's tenure as the military dictator of Pakistan, there was no prime minister while Liaqat Ali Khan reigned as the president of Pakistan. During his last years he appointed Muhammad Junjo as Prime Minister of Pakistan but he had no real authority.

Thus it ~~can be~~ is evident from this fact that due to lack of clearly defined roles for both the prime minister and president the country has existed in a state of political turmoil.

iii)b) Political Rivalry

Rivalry between opposing political parties has always existed either because of a clash in ideologies (right wings vs the leftists) or because of personal rivalry.

After Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's execution, Pakistan Peoples Party broke into many different

parties. Al-Zulfikar was spearheaded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's son Murtaza Bhutto while Pakistan People's Party was led by Benazir Bhutto and her spouse Asif Ali Zardari. The rivalry between the two parties led to the brutal assassination of Murtaza Bhutto, civil wars in Karachi and Sindh and also led to political instability.

iii) c) Foreign Intervention

In 1971, East Pakistan fell. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had received support as he rebelled against Pakistan thus Bangladesh was formed.

Involvement of non-state actors in manipulating national politicians and exploiting the weakness of the nation has led to the downfall ~~of the nation~~ of political stability in Pakistan.

iii) d) Military Intervention

Yahya Khan established Martial Law in Pakistan. He had appointed capable prime ministers such as Ghulam Muhammad but had granted them very little power and authority. ~~He~~ ~~was~~ Field Marshal Ayub Khan was also a military dictator and he was also accused of rigging elections and meddling with the fundamental structure in Pakistan.

Yahya Khan implemented Martial law after

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto refused to accept election results that favoured Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rahman over his party. Furthermore, after Yahya Khan resigned, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became Pakistan's first Civilian Martial Law Administrator. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was put on death row by General Zia ul Haq who then established martial law in Pakistan and dissolved the constitution. In the 2000's, General Pervez Musharraf had exiled ~~from~~ former ~~Prime Minister~~ ^{President} Nawaz Sharif from Pakistan ~~and~~ and had ~~become~~ implemented martial law in Pakistan.

Due to the conflict of the military with the government of Pakistan, political instability had ensued.

iii) e) Lack of administrative skills

Most politicians have no prior experience to governing the country and once they come to power, they create chaos ~~with~~ ^{with} their inability to assess and ~~to~~ are unable to take the situation by the reins.

Most incapable politicians are prematurely ousted and are replaced by acting governments and often at times by military dictators.

iii) f) Assassination of leaders

Important political figures like Liaquat Khan, Benazir Bhutto, Mustafa Bhutto

and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto have been assassinated. There have been attempts to assassinate ~~Yousaf Raza Gillani~~ due to the harsh circumstances and because of politicians' lives being constantly at stake, there is greater political instability in Pakistan.

iv) How to bring political stability in Pakistan

In order to solve the issue regarding the confusion of roles of prime ministers and presidents, it must be made sure that everything is happening in accordance with the constitution of Pakistan and nothing goes against and strict measures must be implemented to avoid violations.

Intelligence Agencies and Pakistan Police forces must be strengthened to root out and eliminate non-state actors through counter intelligence operations to prevent foreign intervention.

Political leaders should be educated and trained before being granted the responsibility to govern the state so they do not cause more trouble.

v) Conclusion

Political instability, even though has haunted Pakistan from its inception and its roots can be traced back to the earliest history of Pakistan, it can still be weeded out if proper measures are implemented.