

⇒ Civil - Military Relations in Pakistan

(1947-2025)

⇒ Outline

→ Introduction

→ Historical Overview (1947-1958)

Foundation of Military Influence

- (i) Weak Civilian Institutions: Death of Jinnah (1948), assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan (1951) and weak parliamentary structure.
- (ii) First Bureaucratic - Military Nexus:
Role of Ghulam Muhammad and Iskandar Mirza.
- (iii) Military Consolidation:
Ayub Khan as C in C, later defence Minister
- (iv) 1958 Martial Law:
First direct military intervention.

→ Era of Military Rule and Consolidation of Power

- (i) Ayub Khan (1958-1969)
Introduction of 1962 Constitution (Presidential System)
Creation of Basic Democracies system, Indo-Pak War 1965,
Civil - Military imbalance institutionalized
- (ii) Yahya Khan (1969-1971)
Failed to manage political transition
Military's role in delaying transfer of Power after 1970 elections
Fall of Dhaka and creation of East Pakistan.

→ Civilian Rule and Military Oversight (1972-1977)

- (i) Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's Tenure:
Attempt to establish civilian supremacy
1973 - Constitution - Parliamentary framework
creation of Federal Security Force to counter military

(ii) Military coup: ousted by General Zia in 1977

→ Zia-ul-Haq Regime (1977-1988)

Militarization of Politics

- Martial Law and Islamization of the Constitution and laws
- Alignment with US in Afghan War
(military gains strategic depth)
- Politicization of military through alliances with Jamate-Islami and JUI.
- Death of Zia in 1988 restored civilian rule.

→ Democratic Interlude: Civilian Fragility (1988-1999)

- Altering governments of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif
- Establishment vs. civil government tensions:
 - 1990: Dismissal of Benazir by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan with military backing
 - 1993: Army-mediated resignations of PM Nawaz Sharif and President GIK
 - 1998: Civil-military conflict over Kargil; fallout led to Nawaz Musharraf tensions.

(ii) coup of 1999: Musharraf overthrows Nawaz Sharif.

→ General Pervez Musharraf (1999-2008):

Hybrid Authoritarianism

- Promoted "Enlightened Moderation" and WOT alignment.
- Introduced Legal Framework Order (2002) to strengthen presidential powers.
- 2007: Emergency, sacking of Judges, Lal Masjid operation
- Military image declined: Musharraf resigned under pressure in 2008.

→ Civilian Governments under military Oversight (2008-2025)

(i) PPP Government (2008-2013)

Asif Zardari President, civil-military tensions: Memogate Scandal (2011), Osama Bin Laden (2011), Military dominance in foreign and security policies remained intact.

(ii) PML-N Government (2013-2018)

- Nawaz Sharif attempted civilian assertiveness (e.g. foreign policy on India)
- Panama Papers led to disqualification in 2017 (with perceived establishment backing).
- Dawn Leaks Controversy: civil-military trust deficit.

(iii) PTI Government (2018-2022)

- Perceived as military-backed (hybrid regime)
- Later rift over DG ISI appointment and FP independence.
- 2022: VONC ousts Imran Khan.

(iv) PDM and Post 2022 Setup

- Attempts at civilian unity; weak legitimacy amid economic and political crisis
- May 9, 2023 riots: led to intensified military backlash on PTI
- Military's continued dominance over electoral process and policy-making.

→ Civil-Military Relations Post 2022: Emerging Trends

- (i) Political Engineering: Role of military 2024-2025 elections by party alignment
- (ii) Strengthening of Intelligence Arms: ISI's formal role in vetting bureaucracy
- (iii) Civilian Dependence: continued reliance on military for internal security, disaster relief, foreign affairs.

→ conclusion