

Day. _____ Date. _____
When Certain ethnic groups feel left-out in social and economic transactions, it leads the collapse.

Introduction:

The East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, had always remained backward in social and economic spheres before and after partition. They always struggle for the acceptance of their ethnicity, language, representation in federation according to their population, equal quota in top army, civil and police services, equality in developmental projects and Educational reforms. Moreover they felt leftout in economic transactions. war of 1965 and Cyclone of 1970. This leads towards widespread resentment and fall of Dhaka.

(I) Brief overview of the plight of East Pakistan before and after independence:

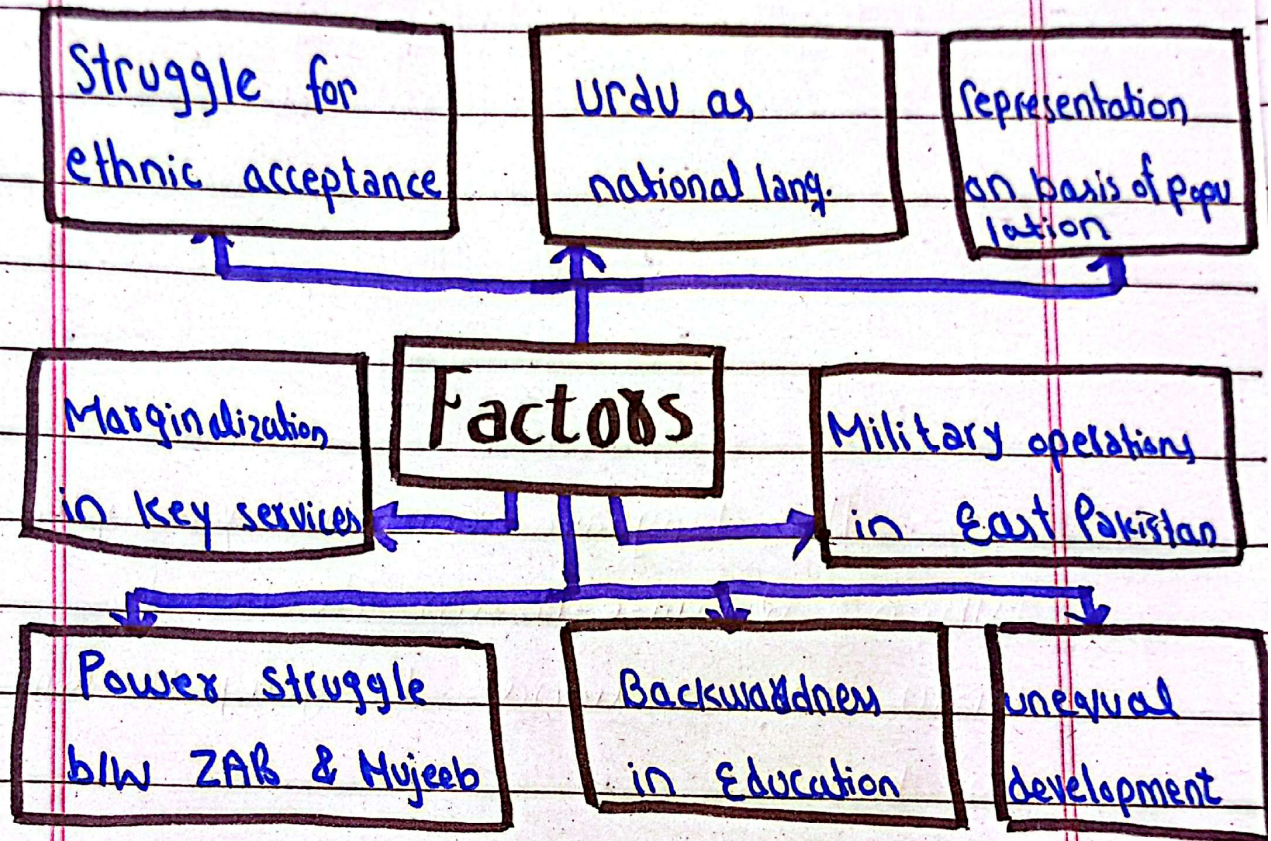
The 14% Hindu population had larger influence in the East Pakistan due to their wealth and control over lands. The Muslims although in majority had always suffered as peasants and wagers.

"The Bengali Muslims hoped to get better opportunities after independence but the situation remains the same." Source: ISSI

After the independence, West Pakistan was always prioritized in policy-making, ignoring East Pakistan.

II) Social factors that marginalized Bengalis and leads towards the collapse of political system:

Marginalization in the following sphere created widespread resentment for central government:



i) Struggle for the ethnic acceptance of Bengalis:

Bengalis have always tried to maintain their ethnicity acknowledged by all.

Mansoor Ahmad president of Bengali Muslim league pointed out that

religion and culture are not same things. Religion can transgresses geography but culture can not go beyond geography. So, the people of East Pakistan are different from others.

ii) Declaration of Urdu as national language and widespread resentment:

The language controversy erupted when Quaid-e-Azam declared Urdu as national language. According to him:

Nation can not be solidly united untill one state language. State language of Pakistan is going to be Urdu no other language.

This declaration created widespread resentment among Bengalis. There was huge protest by the students to alter these measures.

iii) Representation in federation on the basis of population:

As the East Pakistan had 56% population. So, they always demanded representation in the federal legislature on the basis of their population.

"The demands of East Pakistan to gain representation on the basis of population never achieved attention by policymakers." IPRT

iv) Marginalization in key services and resentment of East Pakistan:

The Bengalis due to the poor educational background had always remained marginalized in key services including military, police and civil services.

Decision-making cadre	Total	Bengali
in 1947		

1947	civil servants in IPS & ICS	101	81
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1950s civil servants

741

51

1955 army officers

of high ranks

308

4

This marginalization realized the Bengalis that their future will never be secured with west Pakistan.

v) Military operations in East Pakistan and people's lost Confidence in central govt.:

On 23 March 1975, Bangladeshi flag was hoisted instead of Pakistani flag and this day celebrated as Resistance day. Governor of East Pakistan was appointed, General Tikka. But due to non-cooperation from Bengali Bureaucracy his operations failed.

"The military operations resulted into loss of public trust for central govt."

Analytics on causes of separation of East Pak.

vii) Power struggle between ZAB and Sh. Mujeeb:

In general elections of 1970 Mujeeb-ur-Rehman won with majority of votes. But ZAB refused to transfer power to East Pakistan.

"Mujeeb alleged Yahya Khan of partiality and started widespread agitation of people which ultimately resulted into civil war." IPRI

viii) Backwardness in Education:

The leaders of the time like Ayub Khan and Yahya Khan primarily focused on the progress and advancement of West Pakistan, leaving East Pakistan backward in educational field and other.

Ishtiaq Ahmad in his book "Pakistan: A Garrison state" argues that Ayub

appointed Munem Khan as Governor general of East Pakistan who carried out undemocratic and autocratic plans & policies.

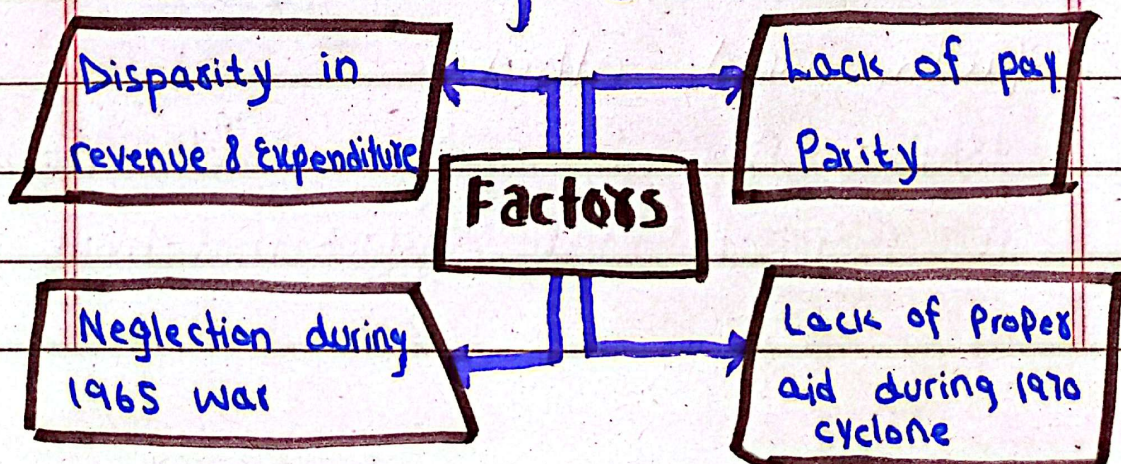
viii) Unequal Developmental projects

The developmental projects were unevenly distributed among the two halves.

Ishrat Hussain in "Governing the ungovernable" asserts that punjabization of Pakistan resulted into feelings of alienation among other provinces.

Due to this, East Pakistan remained backward as compared to West Pakistan.

(iii) Economic marginalization and resentment of East Pakistan:



i) Disparity in revenue and expenditure

East Pakistan had always been marginalized in economic sphere. The license of imports always granted to West Pakistan.

According to a report total revenue expenditure in East Pakistan was 2.5 billion as compared to 89 billion in West Pakistan.

The resentment of East Pakistan against this disparity did not addressed by policy makers. This resulted into chaos.

ii) Lack of pay parity between the two wings:

Further, there was a wide gap between the per capita income of two wings. This worsened the situation by creating feelings of resentment against central government.

According to an analyst, during

Ayub era the gap of per capita income between two wings was 30% which increased to 61% at the end of his term.

iii) Neglect by government during the 1965 War:

During the war of 1965, East Pakistan was completely ignored by the government.

Kamal Hussain, Bengali Jurist, stated that during the war of 1965 East Pakistan felt isolated and undefended.

This made them realized that their future is not secure with West Pakistan.

iv) Lack of proper aid during the cyclone of 1970:

During the natural disaster

of 1970, the people living near the coastal areas of East Pakistan were largely effected.

According to a report, around 500,000 people died during the cyclone of 1970.

But, the government reached here after ten days and did not provide proper aid. This resulted into feelings of alienation and they decided to have separate homeland.

(IV) Critical Analysis:

The feelings of marginalization in social and economic transaction leads towards the collapse of political system. The government of Pakistan should learnt lesson from the separation of East

Pakistan. The grievances of the people of Balochistan and other marginalized communities should be addressed effectively to prevent from another separation.

Conclusion:

Hence, from the above discussion it is clear that when certain ethnic groups feel left out in social and economic transaction, it leads the collapse of political system as seen in the case of separation of East Pakistan. The government should adopt policies and measures that could address the feelings of marginalized communities to strengthen national unity and political stability.