

(INDO-PAK HISTORY)

Q. Critically analyze the fall of Dhaka, particularly the cause which led to the dismemberment of Pakistan in December 1970. (20 marks) 43 marks

Ans
(1)

INTRODUCTION

The fall of Dhaka which led to the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 is the cornerstone event in the geopolitical history of Pakistan. The Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan, By Dr. H. Hamidullah, entails many factors that led to the dismemberment of Pakistan. These include socio-economic disparities in the East wing of country, political depression, etc. Thus, the country had to give the legitimate right and control to its both wings in order to ensure inclusive governance and not to lose its significant and important wing.

Day: _____

Date: _____

2)

CAUSES WHICH LED TO THE DISMEMBERMENT OF PAKISTAN

2.1) Longstanding Socio-economic and Political causes that led to the Fall of Dhaka

(i)

ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF EAST WING BY WEST WING

The West Pakistan exploited the East Pakistan economically. East wing did not receive appropriate amount of the governmental and state revenue, although it contributed significantly more to the state revenue than the West wing.

(ii)

POLITICAL MARGINALIZATION OF ~~THE~~ EAST PAKISTAN

Another factor which led to the

Date: _____

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dismemberment of Pakistan was that the west Pakistan's political and military did not give equal political representation to west wing in the central government, civil services, and military. The One Unit Bill further exaggerated the already deprived west wing.

(iii)

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC SUPPRESSION OF EAST WING

Moreover, the declaration of the Urdu as a the national language is the factor which is responsible for the fall of Dhaka. As the legislatures neglected the Bengali which was the popular and local language in the east wing. This created a sense of separate nationalization in the east Pakistan.

2.2) Immediate Large Triggers which
Caused The Dismemberment of
Pakistan

(i)

GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1970

The East Pakistan won ~~160~~ out of ~~162~~ seats the majority in the National Assembly as the Awami League ~~was~~ led by Mujib-ur-Rahman won 160 out of 162 seats in the East Pakistan. But the West Pakistani political and military establishment were not gracing the results.

(ii)

POSTPONEMENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Despite the fact that the Awami League had won the majority in the National assembly, Zia-ul-Haq postponed the National Assembly

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until 1971 under pressure of the West Pakistani establishment. This event added fuel to the flame.

(iii)

OPERATION SEARCH LIGHT BY THE WEST PAKISTAN ; VIOLENT ATTACKS IN THE EAST WING

The West Pakistani military started attacking the students, intellectuals and politicians as a retaliation of the protests by the East wing. Thus the operation led to create the ways for East Pakistanis to demand the independence.

2.3) Role OF External Actors

(i)

INDIAN INTERVENTION LED TO THE FALL OF DHAKA

Because of the prevailing violence

Date: _____

Day: _____

in the East Pakistan, a number of refugees fled to India. Thus India also intervened in the war and supported the Mukti Bahini (Freedom fighters) of Bangladesh citing the secularist and humanitarian crisis. Thus, the Indian intervention along with the the East Pakistani forces led to the fall of Dhaka.

(ii)

ROLE OF OTHER STATES IN THE DISMEMBERMENT OF PAKISTAN

The USA supported Pakistan due to cold war geopolitical considerations. On the other hand, the Russia sought to assist India and the East Pakistan due to the USA's support for Pakistan and influencing the region.

CAUSES OF FAIL OF DHAKA

↓
Socio-economic
and Political
Causes

↓
Economic
exploitation
of the
East wing by
the west

Political
marginalization
of the east
wing by the
west wing

Cultural
suppression of
the East wing.

↓
Immediate
Triggers

↓
General
Election
of 1970

Postponement
of the
National

Assembly
session by
Zia-ul-Haq

Operation

Search

light

↓
External
actors'
role

↓
Role of
India,
USA,
and
Russia

Date: _____

Day: _____

3)

CONCLUSION

To conclude, there were several reasons for the fall of Dhaka and the dismemberment of Pakistan as elaborated by Dr Hamidullah in his book "The Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan." However, the fall of Dhaka ^{could} be prevented by the west Pakistan through addressing and agreeing to the legitimate demands and rights of the East wing.
