

Discuss the major issues of the constitutional making processes in Pakistan in 1956, 1962 and 1973.

## Introduction:

Pakistan was established on August 14, 1947, to provide Indian Muslims with a homeland where they could live according to Islamic principles. However, the new state faced serious challenges including refugee crises, food and water shortages, health issues, and weak political leadership. These differences led to

delays in constitution by up to 9 years, resulting in term political instability. A major reason for the delay was the lack of consensus between East and West Pakistan.

West Pakistan leaders favored a unitary government with a unicameral legislature while East Pakistan demanded a federal system with bicameral legislature. Dispute also arose over the parliamentary vs.

presidential system the role of Islam and

language issues. Despite these issues.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah on 11 August

1947 address to the constituent Assembly.

"The constitution of Pakistan has

yet to be formed by the Pakistan

constituent Assembly. I do not know

what the ultimate shape of this

constitution is going to be, but

I am sure that it will be of

democratic type embodying the

essential principles of Islam."

keep the introduction a bit brief.

## ISSUES in Constitution making

The Government of India Act 1935 was

modified and promulgated in the newly

State of Pakistan. The constituent Assembly

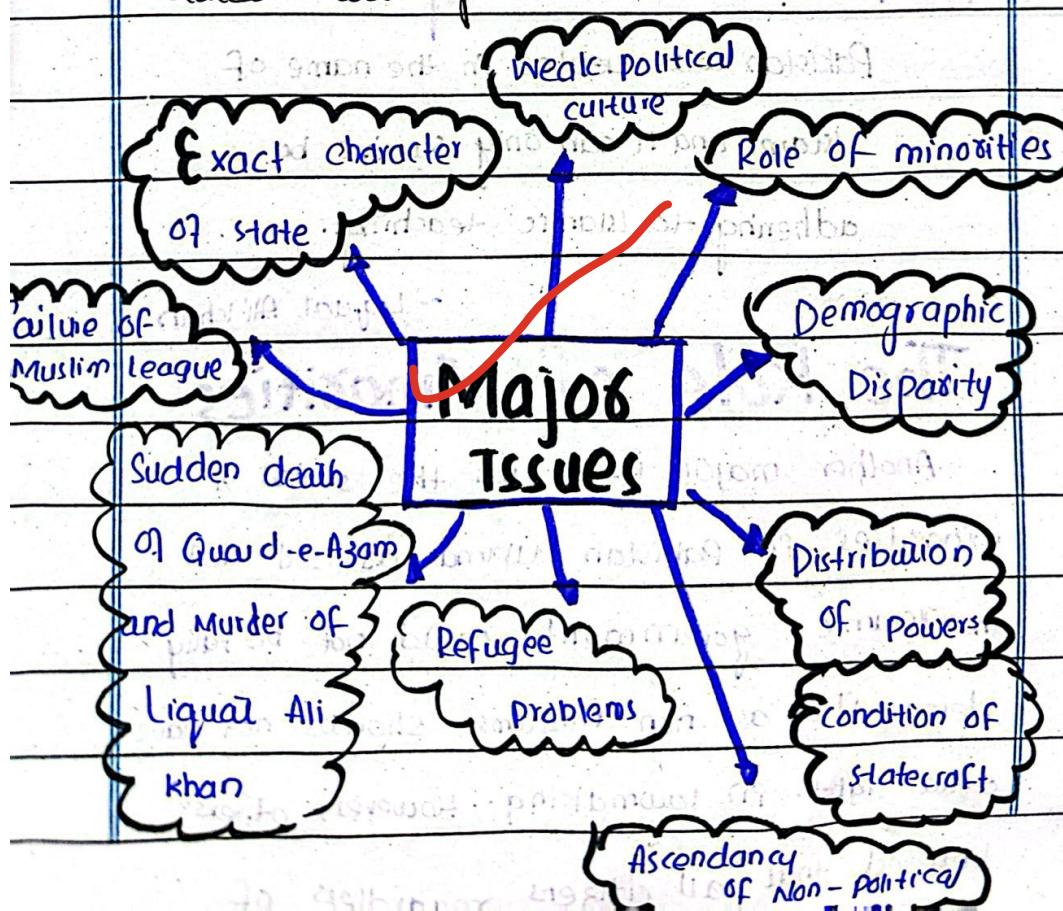
was given the task of framing the

constitution. The elected members in the

1946 elections made first Constituent Assembly

that grievous circumstances. The first

meeting of the constituent Assembly was held on August 11, 1947 at Karachi. The process began with the passing of the Objective Resolution in which the Islamic and democratic values were adopted as grounds for the future constitution. The Basic principles committee (PPC) consisting of 24 members was made to work for the constitutional powers. The various sub-committees on Federal and provincial powers, franchise, judiciary and fundamental rights stated working.



## Exact Character of State:

One of the biggest challenges in constitution making was deciding what kind of state Pakistan should be. The demand for Pakistan had united diverse Muslim groups, but their visions different. Some saw Pakistan as a way to escape Hindu dominance, while others wanted it to be a pure Islamic state. Religious scholars (Ulama) while modernist leaders preferred a system that aligned Islamic principles with democracy.

Pakistan was created in the name of Islam, and it can only survive by adhering to Islamic teachings.

use specific and self explanatory headings.

## The Role of Minorities

Another major issue was the status of minorities in Pakistan. Ulama argued that an Islamic government could not be fully democratic as non-Muslims should not have equal rights in lawmaking. However, others believed that all citizens regardless of

of religion should have equal rights

' Minorities are the sacred trust of  
Pakistan.' ~ Muhammad Ali Jinnah

## Demographic Disparity:

Pakistan faced a unique challenge

due to its geographical and demographic divide

East Pakistan and West Pakistan were separated

by over 1,000 miles with distinct ethnic, linguistic  
and economic differences

East Pakistan had a larger population

had a larger population than West Pakistan had  
52.2% but covered only more territory but  
one-seventh of total land a smaller population

Bengali dominated in East Urdu was common

East Pakistan had a larger non-Muslim minority 23.2%

These differences made it difficult to

create a federal structure that fairly

represented both regions.

"A state without justice and fair representation cannot hold together for long." ~ Sheikh Mujibur Rehman

## Distribution of Power

A key challenge in constitution-making was the distribution of power between the federal and provincial governments. While most agreed on a federal system, conflict arose between those who wanted strong provincial autonomy with a weak center and those who favored a powerful central government. Many politicians prioritized regional interests over national unity. Leaders from both East and West Pakistan argued that due to geographical separation, the provinces should hold more power, leaving only limited authority for the center.

A strong nation is built on a balanced distribution of power. — <sup>94</sup> Liaqat Ali Khan.  
*leave a line space between headings for neatness.*

## Refugees Problem:

The newly established Pakistan faced a severe refugee crisis with about 1.5 million people displaced and about 1.5 million killed in the violence. Millions needed shelter, food and medical aid.

while thousands were separated from families. The government's focus shifted to managing this humanitarian disaster delaying the constitution-making process.

"No power on earth can undo Pakistan,

but we must build it with unity and

strength" ~ Muhammad Ali Jinnah

## Sudden Death of Quaid-e-Azam and Murder of Liaquat Ali Khan:

The sudden death of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on Sep 11, 1948,

created a leadership void. As the "father of the Nation", his authority and vision were unmatched. In his August 11 speech,

he outlined Pakistan's state principles. After his passing, Liaquat Ali Khan tried to build consensus for a constitution but was

assassinated on October 16, 1951. His death

led to political instability, as self-serving leaders were with short-sighted

polices took control, delaying the constitution

until 1956.

## Condition of Statecraft

At independence, Pakistan faced severe challenges. Unlike India, it had to build its government from scratch. Lacking experienced administrators and financial resources, the arrival of over a million refugees and tensions with India worsened the situation. With urgent state building needs, constitution making was delayed, and Pakistan continued using the Government of India Act 1935 with modifications.

## Weak Political Culture

The death of Quaid-e-Azam Ali Jinnah (1948) and Liaquat Ali Khan (1951) created a leadership vacuum that weakened Pakistan's political culture. Their successors, though honest, lacked experience in governance, which led to the erosion of parliamentary processes and delayed democratic development.

A nation without strong leadership struggles to find its direction.

# Failure of Muslim League:

The Muslim League failed to transition from a freedom movement into a functional political party. Unlike other post-colonial states, where ruling parties provided stable leadership, the Muslim League struggled with internal conflicts, corruption allegations, and a lack of democratic practices. It did not hold a single annual convention for nine years, weakening its credibility and ability to lead Pakistan towards constitutional democracy.

## Ascendancy of Non-Political Forces

With weak political culture, civil and military bureaucracy began to dominate Pakistan's governance. The Governor General's office played a key role in undermining democracy by imposing governor's rule and dismissing elected governments, even those with a majority.

This interference delayed - the constitution making process, as political stability took a back seat.

## Conclusion

Pakistan's constitutional development was delayed due to political instability, power struggle, and disagreements over

federalism and the role of Islam. The failure to create an early constitution resulted in regional tensions, weak

national unity and military intervention

in politics. These challenges continued to influence Pakistan's political landscape

even after the 1952, 1962, 1973

constitution.