

Evaluate the factional politics of early years (1947-58) and its impact on the democratic process of Pakistan.

ANSWER :

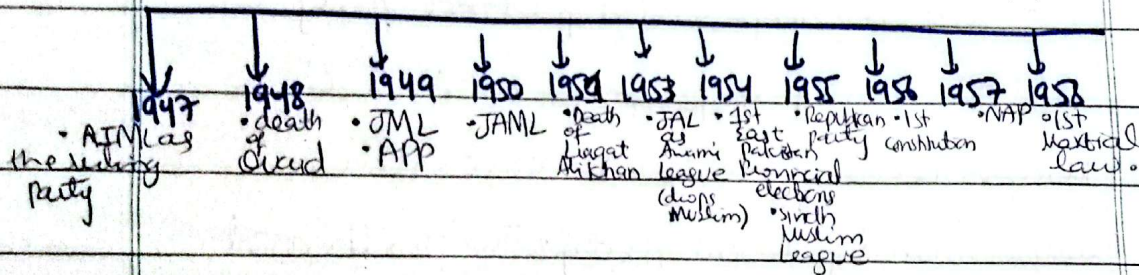
① Introduction

Pakistan inherited a fragile political structure at the time of partition. It had no central government infrastructure. Moreover, there was no deep-rooted political party to lead the country to progress, as All-India Muslim League was a movement, not a deep-rooted political party. The death and assassination of political leaders further identified the political landscape. Also, the unequal federal structure and the refugee crisis, along with economic disempowerment impacted not only the political fabric, but also the democratic dispensation of Pakistan.

② Historical Background

The political landscape of Pakistan has been

fractured and fragmented since its inception.
 The formation of All-India Muslim League in 1906 and its decisive role till 1947 paved the way for the formation of Pakistan. However, immediately after Partition, the leadership void due to Jinnah's death and Liaquat Ali Khan's assassination and the subsequent division of Muslim League into various splinter groups underscores the complex political history of Pakistan.



③ Factional Politics of Early Years (1947-58)

(i) All-India Muslim League as the Ruling Party

The All-India Muslim League, which was created in 1906 in response to the Muslim marginalization by the Indian National Congress, succeeded in creating a separate Muslim country. However, it was just a movement and could not evolve into a deep-rooted political party post-independence.

Early failures of
Muslim League

- Highly centralized system of government
- Elite politics
- Mass-led movements not a party
- no political vision post-partition
- Single-leader party

(i) 1948 leadership void post-Jinnah's death

Immediately 13 months after independence, Jinnah died. It created a deep leadership vacuum which could never be filled till date.

His strategic vision and foresight could have saved the Muslim League from early disintegration.

(ii) Muslim League Splinter Groups (JML and APP) in 1949

Immediately after independence, Muslim League got splintered into a number of factions.

Jinnah Muslim League (JML) was formed by

Abdullah Khan and Azad Pakistan Party by

Mani Khanuddin due to internal frictions and disagreements amid power tussles. In fact,

APP was the first real opposition, marking the beginning of ideological diversification.

(IV) Rise of Jinnah Awami Muslim League (1950)

The Jinnah Awami Muslim League was another splinter group of All-Pakistan Muslim League. It was founded by H.S. Shaqawady as he alleged Muslim League of elitist politics and anti-poor interests. It was a major Bengali-led political alternative, paving the way for regional politics.

(V) Rise of Awami League (1953)

JAMML was renamed to Awami League in 1953. It dropped 'Muslim' from its name to shed its communal label and adopted a secular regional political alignment.

(VI) Electoral collapse of Muslim League (1954)

In the East Pakistan provincial elections, Muslim League won only 10 seats while the United Front gained 223 out of 309 seats. It meant that the political dominance of Muslim League was shattered in the East. The rise of South Muslim League further exacerbated the

Centre-province divide.

(vii) 1955 Republican Party

It was formed by Iskander Mirza after the Muslim League's collapse. It was needed for new ruling coalition which legitimized non-party rule, too. One unit scheme was introduced to merge all provinces and princely states into a single West Pakistan.

(viii) 1957 National Awami Party

APP and other leftist or regional parties were merged against centralism. It later became a hub of progressive opposition. It was again one of the factions of Muslim League.

(ix) Imposition of Martial Law in 1958

Due to party splits and factionalism, civilian leadership weakening, giving way to non-democratic forces to cede control of the political landscape.

④ Impact on Democratic Process

(i) Weakened Pakistan's Executive Branch

Prime ministers were frequently removed not by Parliament but by unelected Governor-Generals to maintain their authoritarian control. For instance, Governor-General Ghulam Muhammad dismissed PM Khawaja Nazimuddin even though he enjoyed a legislative majority.

"From 1951 to 1958, seven PMs were changed in a period of 7 years" — IPR

(ii) Paralyzed Nascent Legislature

Factional politics paralyzed the country's nascent legislature. The constitution making was stalled for the first nine years.

In 1954, the Governor-General dissolved the national constituent assembly due to distrust among a number of factions.

(iii) Judiciary legitimized extra-legal acts

A Governor General held the power to dissolve the Assembly, the 'doctrine of necessity' gave it a legal cover. Judiciary did not check over the excesses of the executive branch of government.

(iv) Imbalanced civil-military relations

Due to political infighting and fragmented party systems the civil-military ties became sacred. The support of the Republican party by Iskander Mirza undermined civilian supremacy. The 1958 coup further suspended the democratic institutions altogether.

(v) Supremacy of Civil Service and Bureaucracy

Due to factionalism and splintering of Muslim League as the only party post-partition, civil service took the centre stage. In the process, civilian and elected representatives were sidelined to the backseat, and undermined democratic governance.

Take a concrete action against India in
International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Conclusion

Thus, it could be concluded that Kashmir is a real nuclear flashpoint between two ~~these~~ arch rivals. Therefore, the resolution of Kashmir dispute is important to ensure diplomatic peace in the South Asian region. Pakistan has time and again revived the Kashmir issue on multi-lateral and bilateral forums. However, it should proactively pursue the issue to reach a just and peaceful solution to the issue.