

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 dentred the political landscape. Also, the unequal federal structure and the refugee crisis, along with economic disruptions, impacted

not only the political fabric, but also the democratic dispensation of Pakistan.

② Historical Background

The political landscape of Pakistan has been

Factionalized 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 into

various splinter groups underscores the complex

political history of Pakistan.

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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

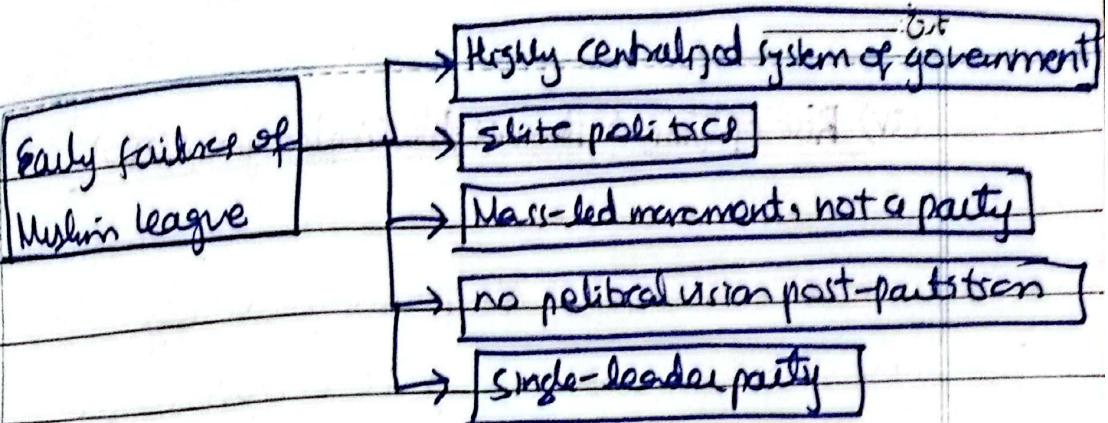
by the Indian National Congress, succeeded in

creating a separate Muslim constituency. However, it

was just a movement and could not evolve

into a deep-rooted political party post-independence.

1947	↓	1948	↓	1949	↓	1950	↓	1951	↓	1952	↓	1953	↓	1954	↓	1955	↓	1956	↓	1957	↓	1958
• AIML as the ruling party		• death of Jinnah		• JML formed		• JAML of Liaquat Ali Khan		• death of Jinnah		• JAL of Muslim League		• 1st Muslim League elections		• 1st Muslim League (Muslim League)		• 1st Muslim League constitution		• 1st Muslim League constitution		• NAP of 1st Muslim League law.		



(ii) 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.

(iii) Muslim League's 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

Akbari Mandot and Azad Pakistan Party by

Muhammad Ali Jinnah due to internal frictions and

disagreements over power tussle. 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. Shaheed as he alleged Muslim League of elitist politics and anti-poor interests. It was a major Bengaliized political alternative, paving the way for regional politics.

(V) Rise of Awami League (1953)

JAMI 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 Sindh Muslim League further exacerbated the

Centre-province divide. ^{Est} ~~and a regional~~

(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 his 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 seize 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 elected Governor-

General to maintain their authoritarian

control. For instance, Governor-General Ghulam

Mohammad 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 Nurrent legislature

Political politics paralyzed the country's

newest legislature. The constituent writing

was stalled for the first nine years

In 1954, the Governor-General dissolved the

National constituent assembly due to

distrust among a number of factors

(ii) Judiciary legitimized extra-legal acts

A governor general had 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 sour. 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 conciute action against India in
International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Conclusion

Thus, it could be concluded that Kashmir is a real nuclear flashpoint between one the two 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 multilateral and bilateral forums. However, it should proactively pursue the issue to reach a just and peaceful solution to the issue.

Concise your conclusion
Good analysis
You have got potential
Good luck!