

Q3 Examine the causes and consequences of 1971 separation of East Pakistan, highlighting the role of regional and international players.

1. Introduction

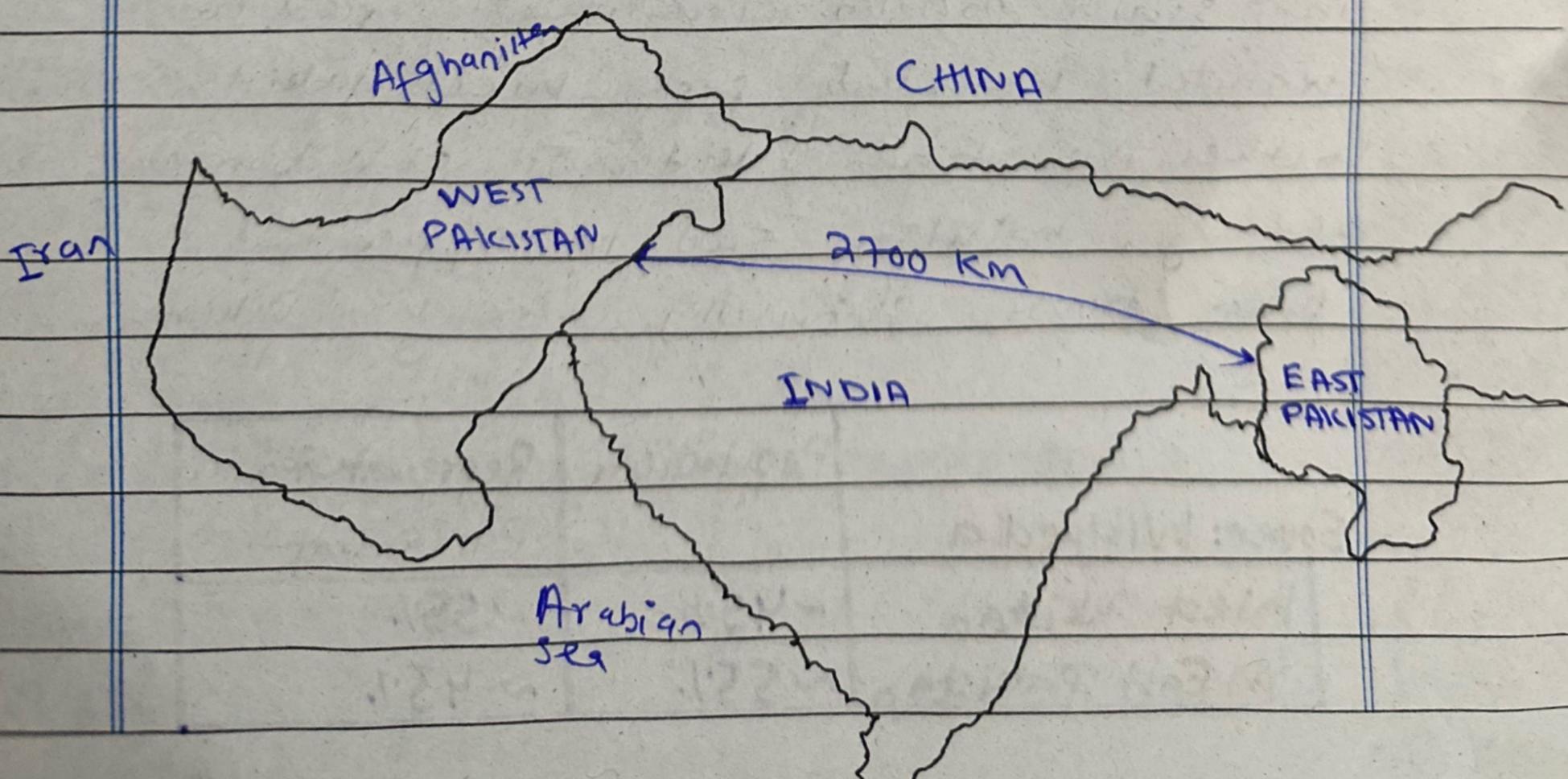
After the years of struggle and crisis, East Pakistan got separated in 1971 from West Pakistan. Language concerns, constitutional crisis and management issues were the causes for the separation. However, after separation, West Pakistan's economy

dramatically fell. Regional and international leaders also somehow impacted the separation by staying silent and some to players took direct part in it.

2. Causes of 1971 Separation of East Pakistan

A. 2700 kilometers away and arch rival in the middle

East and West Pakistan were away from 2700 kilometers from each other. This vast distance created hurdles in governing the two distant locations simultaneously. Moreover, India also sometimes blocks the borders for the passage due to which communication was only possible through sea and by Air, that were costly in 1971 for newly born country.



B. 24 years of Constitutional Years

After 9 years, in 1956, a constitution was created after a lot of struggle that was suspended after military intervention. In 1963 a new constitution was implemented that was also suspended. That created hurdle in governing ~~one~~ ~~as~~ East and West Pakistan ~~as~~ one country.

C. Language Controversy

East Pakistan (EP) being a majority in population always wanted to Bengali as a National language. But leaders of East Pakistan wanted Urdu as a national language.

D. Political Under-representation

East Pakistan faced constraints in senior positions. Government tried to promote individuals from West Pakistan other than East Pakistan. In civil bureaucracy, military and in upper and lower house, dominantly were West Pakistan.

Source: Wikipedia

| | Population | Representation in Parliament |
|---------------|------------|------------------------------|
| West Pakistan | ~45% | ~55% |
| East Pakistan | ~55% | ~45% |

E. Revenue Generated from East Pakistan was spent in West Pakistan

East Pakistan had jute production. That was high in demand at that time. It also had few industries in comparison to West Pakistan. Meanwhile, West Pakistan did not have any source of income or revenue generation. To that purpose, Government to generate and collect funds from West Pakistan and that were spent on East Pakistan. That also caused separation between East and West Pakistan.

3. Consequences of 1971 SP separation of East Pakistan

A. West Pakistan become economically fragile country

After separation, revenue sources were stopped, due to which West Pakistan had to explore the new ways of revenue generation to run the country for a sufficient time, economic economy was adversely hit.

B. 1971 elections result and separation

1971 election was the turning point, in which West East Pakistan

won with majority, but in ~~East~~ West Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto wanted to have a coalition in the government. In which East Pakistan representative Mujeeb-ur-Rahman was not ready. The results of elections were as follows.

| Wing | Percent |
|---------------|---------|
| East Pakistan | 57.9% |
| West Pakistan | 42.1% |

Source: Wikipedia

C. Statesmen Initiated Operation Search Light

After elections, ~~when~~ when West Pakistan was not giving authority to Mujeeb-ur-Rahman, a rebel in the East Pakistan initiated for ~~to~~ transfer of ~~the~~ powers. The rebel became massive and it included students, young, old, farmers, and ~~be~~ industrialist. To combat the situation East Pakistan initiated operation Search Light that further eroded trust and West Pakistan wanted nothing but independence.

4. Highlighting the role of regional players

A. India supported and trained Mukhi Bani

Force

India provided safe heavens and trained the small group of army led by Mukti Bahini to fight against West Pakistan so that separation became possible for East Pakistan. Thus, India fully supported East Pakistan.

B. China gripped with internal issues

China was not well off at that time. and also there were internal issues that China was facing such as poverty and pollution. So China's priority was internal stability.

C. Sri Lanka and Afghanistan did not actively participated.

Afghanistan did not accept West Pakistan, so ~~the~~ Afghanistan remained silent and ~~also~~ it ~~was~~ And Sri Lanka was economically not well, to participate in the East and West civil war.

5. Highlighting the role of international players

A. The United States of America adopted neutral stance.

The USA did adopted neutral stance. As the USA itself was fighting with Soviet Union in the cold war. Only to this, USA did not pay significant attention to that matter.

B. The Soviet Union was upset over not joining USSR alliance.

In 1948, before the USA could send invitation for Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) and South Eastern Treaty Organisation (SEATO), Russia sent the invitation to join Russian Alliances. ~~For Pakistan~~ Pakistan accepted but immediately made U-turn and when USA sent the invitation of Cento and Seato. Because of the Russian ~~was~~ Pakistan's ties with Russia were not good.

C. Silence of United Nation Organization

The UNO remained neutral through out the war between Pakistan and India in 1948. Then the UNO also adopted neutral policy in 1971.

DATE: ___/___/___

6. Conclusion

Inadequate funds, resources and infrastructure, the separation of East and West Pakistan was not inevitable.

The 24 years of causes and struggles created a day of separation. Furthermore, separation further made easy by the external forces like India. While, other players of international and regional community stayed silent.