

Q. How Objective Resolution satisfied both the Orthodox and Modernists.

Objective Resolution.

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Introduction:

The Objective Resolution was a landmark event in the Constitutional history of Pakistan. It was passed on March 12, 1949, by the First Constituent Assembly of the country. The most significant thing was that it contained basic principles of Islamic political system as well as the Western Democracy. Moreover, this piece of document served as preamble for 1956, 1962 and 1973 constitutions and ultimately became the part of the 1973 Constitution when the Eighth Amendment was passed.

Historical Background of Objective Resolution:

Pakistan emerged on August 14, 1947, with no formal Constitution being inherited from the British. However, the country functioned under the Government of India Act 1935 as an interim Constitution with some amendments. The quest for drafting the Constitution started under the leadership of the Founder and the First President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Since the country emerged on the basis of the Two Nations

Theory, the religious leaders of the Country wanted to institutionalize the Islamic principles as guiding principles of the state. On the other hand, the minority community and a few modernists wanted a secular democratic state with equal citizenship rights. So, there was a strong need to draft a document that could harmonize the Islamic ideology with the modern governance principles. In such a polarised environment, Liaqat Ali Khan, who had been a loyal supporter of Quaid's journey presented the Objective Resolution.

CORE FEATURES OF OBJECTIVE RESOLUTION:

Some of the core features of Objective Resolution are as follows:

1. Sovereignty of the entire universe belongs to Allah.
2. Authority should be delegated to the state through its People under the rules set by Allah.
3. The state shall exercise its power and authority through the chosen representatives of the People.
4. Principles of democracy, Freedom, equality and social justice as guaranteed by Islam shall be implemented.
5. Muslims shall be able to live their lives according

6. Minorities shall be enabled with the right to free declare and uphold their faiths.
7. It would be the responsibility of the state to protect the interest of minorities, backward and depressed classes.
8. The Judiciary would be independent.
9. The integrity and territoriality of the country needs to be safeguarded.

SYNTHESIS OF MODERN AND ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY IN OBJECTIVE RESOLUTION

APPEAL TO ORTHODOX WITH FEATURES OF

ISLAMIC DEMOCRACY

Sovereignty of Allah:

The very fundamental tenant of the Objective Resolution is that the authority over the entire universe belongs to Allah Almighty alone. He has entrusted it to the state via chosen representatives of the people as a sacred trust. In the speech made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, while introducing it,

"As all authority is a sacred trust, entrusted to us by God, for the purpose of being exercised in the service of man so that it does not become the agency for tyranny and selfishness"

Adherence to Islamic Values:

The Objective Resolution clearly stresses on facilitating Muslims to live their life according to the Islamic teachings as set out in the Quran and Sunnah. Liaquat Ali Khan in the words,

"Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accordance with the teachings and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah. It is quite obvious that no Non-Muslim should have any objection if the Muslims are enabled to order their lives in accordance with the dictates of their religion.....

The state will create such conditions

as are conducive to the building up of truly Islamic Society, which means that the state will have to play a positive part in this effort?"

Promotion OF Islamic Principles:

The Objective Resolution aims to promote Islamic Principles of democracy, Freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan, explicitly recognised this aspect, saying,

"You should notice, Sir, that the Objective Resolution lays emphasis on the principles of democracy, Freedom, equality, tolerance and Social Justice and further defines them by saying that these principles should be observed in the constitution as Islam has enunciated them".

Commitment to Shariah.

The objective Resolution binds the state

to devise Future laws in accordance with Shari'ah principles. No law can be passed in the country without its alignment with Islamic injunctions. This set the basis in the future constitutions that those laws that were in contradiction with the shari'ah were strike-down and it has been witnessed a number of times in the constitutional and political history of the country.

APPEAL TO MODERNISTS WITH FEATURES OF ISLAMIC DEMOCRACY

Governance Through Democracy:

The Objective Resolution clearly proposes democratic principles for governance as it stresses the need to exercise authority by the state through chosen representatives of the people. On this aspect, the pioneer of Objective Resolution noted,

“The state shall exercise all its authority through the chosen representatives of the People. This is the very essence of democracy because all the people have been recognised as the recipients of all authority and it is in them that the power to wield it has

been vested. This naturally eliminates any danger of the establishment of theocracy?"

Equal Fundamental Rights

The Objective Resolution clearly mentions that the state will provide equal Fundamental rights to all of the citizens of the country without any distinction on the basis of religion, creed, color or gender. Similarly, Islam places great emphasis that all human beings are fundamentally equal in dignity and worth. Prophet Mohammad's (P.B.U.H) last sermon emphasized universal equality, declaring that,

"An Arab is not to be preferred to a non-Arab, nor is a non-Arab to be preferred to an Arab; nor is a white man, to be preferred to a colored one, or a colored one to a white, except on the basis of righteousness"

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES:

The objective Resolution guarantees Freedom of religion and equal citizenship rights to non-Muslim minorities, promoting inclusivity and pluralism. On this aspect, the First PM of the country, Liaquat Ali Khan, noted,

"In our desire to build up an Islamic society we have not ignored the rights of the non-Muslims. Indeed, it would have been un-Islamic to do so, and we would have been

guilty of transgressing the dictates of our religion if we had tried to do impinge upon the freedom of the minorities.

In no way will they be hindered from professing or protecting their religion or developing their cultures."

Secular Accommodation with an Islamic

The Objective Resolution clearly incorporates a secular touch with an Islamic Framework by guaranteeing equal Fundamental rights to all citizens and providing protection to different religious groups.

In the words of Pakistani writer, **Yasir Latif Hamdani**,

"The Objective Resolution was a compromise document between Pakistan's modernists and religious class."

Legacy of Objective Resolution:

The Objective Resolution is an important guiding document in the course history of Pakistan. This piece of document had lasting impacts on subsequent constitutions, may it be the 1956 constitution, the 1962 constitution or the 1973 constitution, whose article 2A through Eight Amendments

Jalal e Paaddshahi ho Ken Jambhori tamasha ho,
Judah ho deen Siyasat se tou seh jati hai changezi.

made the principles and provisions set out
in the Objective Resolution its substantive part.

CONCLUSION:

Pakistan is a sacred trust hence citizens
of Pakistan are real owners. Thus it is
suggested that future amendments in
constitution should be made taking into
consideration benefits of public at large
rather than benefiting ruling elite. It is
also suggested that electoral reforms should
be made, electoral machines should be
used to make it free and fair which
is needed to establish a pure democratic
system in Pakistan. Moreover, it is also
suggested that VIP Protocol for ruling
elite should be discouraged and security
measures should be equally provided to
every citizen of Pakistan as documented
in Objective Resolution and future constitutions
of Pakistan.