

# Pakistan Affairs

⇒ Question : 3

Keeping in view the ... subcontinent.

Answer:

## Background:

Before the emergence of Islamic reformists, Muslims in the subcontinent were facing a severe decline in their religious, social and political conditions. There was decline in Islamic knowledge and education, and Sufism and mysticism had become prevalent leading to un-Islamic practices. Superstitions and folk practices had also crept into religious rituals and ceremonies, compromising the purity of the faith. Moreover, Muslims were facing political decline, and their social conditions were deteriorating, with corruption, immorality, and unethical behavior rampant in society. The community was also disunited and fragmented, with sectarian and regional divisions. Furthermore, Muslims were heavily influenced by non-Muslim cultures, such as Hinduism and European colonialism, and education was stagnant.

leaving them lagging behind in modern advancements. The political subjugation under colonial rule only exacerbated these problems, creating an urgent need for reform and revival.

### Government's partial behavior with Muslims:

Before the arrival of religious scholars, the 'subcontinent's government behavior towards Muslims was marked by partiality and discrimination.

The Hindu King Pushyamitra  
Sunga destroyed mosques  
and prosecuted Muslims.

Muslim rulers faced persecution and discrimination from non-Muslim rulers, such as Hindu Rajputs and Buddhist Palas. Muslims were subjected to restrictive policies, including limitations on religious practices, construction of mosques, and the call to prayer. They were also



denied equal rights and opportunities, and faced discriminatory taxation, like the Jizya tax.

Political marginalization was another hurdle, as Muslims were excluded from decision-making positions and power. The reign of Pushyamitra Sunga, and Buddhist palas, are examples of these partial behaviors. This environment of discrimination and marginalization prevailed until the arrival of religious scholars who played a significant role in promoting religious tolerance and co-existence.

The scholars are the  
guardians of the religion.

Imam Malik

## Religious Reformists:

Reformists

- Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi
- Shah Waliullah
- Syed Ahmed Shaheed
- Dar-ul-Uloom Deoband.

Religious scholars aimed to revitalize Islam and address the decline of Muslim political power. They played important roles in this process, shaping Muslim identity in the subcontinents and inspiring movements like the Khilafat Movement and the Pakistan Movement.

### **Effor Role they played:**

- i) **Islamic revival:** They played role in Purifying Islam from perceived innovations and emphasizing the Quran and Hadith.
- ii) **Muslim unity:** They played a role in Encouraging solidarity among Muslims, transcending sectarian and regional differences.
- iii) **Distinctiveness:** They played "role" in highlighting Islam's distinctiveness from Hinduism and other religions, fostering a sense of separateness.
- iv) **Education:** They established madarasas and promoted Islamic education to spread their message.



## 5. Jihad:

Some reformists, like Syed Ahmed Barelvi, advocated for armed struggle (Jihad) against British colonial rule and Hindu domination.

Their efforts contributed to:

### i) Muslim awakening:

Muslims started to have a growing awareness of Muslim identity and a desire for political and social empowerment.

### ii) Muslim-Hindu Divide:

They played a role and contributed in exacerbating the divide between Muslims and Hindus, laying the groundwork for the eventual partition of India.

### iii) Pakistan Movement:

The contributed in creating the sense of Muslim identity and unity fostered by reformists, laid the foundation of Pakistan movement, which ultimately led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims in the subcontinent.

## Conclusion:

Religious reformists played a vital role in creating a sense of Muslim identity in the subcontinent, countering colonial, sectarian, and political challenges. Their efforts helped shape a distinct Muslim identity, fostering unity, solidarity, and a shared sense of purpose among Muslims, which ultimately contributed to the emergence of Muslim-majority nations in the region. Their legacy continues to influence Muslims' thought and identity in the subcontinent.

## Q4 Federal structure of Pakistan-- Argue.

Ans: Pakistan's federal structure is a complex entity comprising four provinces, each with its unique cultural, linguistic, and political dynamics. When it comes to determining the most suitable form of Government for Pakistan, both presidential and parliamentary systems have their pros and cons.



However, a comprehensive analysis reveals that a parliamentary system is better suited for Pakistan's federal structure.

## **Parliamentary System:**

### **i) Provincial Autonomy:**

In a parliamentary system, provinces have more autonomy, as Chief ministers are accountable to their respective legislatures.

This ensures that provincial interests are protected and decisions are made at a local level.

### **ii) Representation and Accountability:**

Members of parliament are directly elected by the people, ensuring representation and accountability at both federal and provincial levels.

### **iii) Stability and Coordination:**

The parliamentary system promotes stability, as the Government is accountable to the legislature, and coordination between federal and provincial Governments is facilitated through the Council of Common Interest (CCI).

#### iv) Flexibility and Adaptability:

Parliamentary systems allow for coalition governments and adjustments in policies, enabling flexibility and adaptability in response to changing circumstances.

#### v) Historical Context:

Pakistan has a history of parliamentary governance, with periods of presidential rule marked by authoritarianism and political instability.

#### vi) Federalism and Decentralization:

A parliamentary system aligns with Pakistan's federal structure, allowing for decentralized decision-making and more effective provincial governance.

#### vii) Checks and Balances:

The parliamentary system provides checks and balances, preventing the concentration of power and ensuring that the federal government does not dominate the provinces.

### Presidential System:



### i) Concentration of Power:

A presidential system concentrates power in one person, potentially leading to authoritarianism and undermining provincial autonomy.

### ii) Political Instability:

Presidential systems can create political instability, as the president and legislature may have conflicting interests.

### iii) Limited Representation:

The President may not represent the diverse interests of all provinces, potentially leading to neglect of provincial concerns.

### iv) Inflexibility:

Presidential systems can be inflexible, making it difficult to adjust policies or form coalition governments.

## Conclusion:

In conclusion, Pakistan's federal structure is better suited to a parliamentary form of government. The parliamentary system ensures

provincial autonomy, representation, accountability, stability, flexibility, and effective governance. While a presidential system may have some advantages, its drawbacks, including the concentration of power and potential for political instability, make it less suitable for Pakistan's federal structure. A parliamentary system is more conducive to Pakistan's diverse cultural, linguistic, and potential political landscape, ensuring that the federal government and provinces work together in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.

Q The elusive political stability .... Discuss.

Ans: Introduction:

Pakistan's quest for political stability has been a long-standing challenge, hindering the country's progress and growth. Pakistan, a country with immense potential and resources, has been struggling to achieve political stability since its inception.



The dream of a prosperous and developed Pakistan remains elusive, hindered by the country's inability to establish a stable political system. Political stability is the foundation upon which economic growth, social development, and national prosperity are built. Without it, a country is plagued by chaos, uncertainty, and stagnation. Pakistan's quest for political stability is a longstanding one, with the country facing numerous challenges that have hindered its growth and development.

### **Causes of political instability:**

#### **i) Frequent changes in Government:**

Pakistan has experienced numerous military coups, political upheavals, and changes in Government, creating uncertainty and disrupting policy continuity.

#### **ii) Weak institutions:**

The country's institutions, such as the judiciary, election commission, and

the parliament, have been weakened by political interference, corruption, and lack of autonomy.

### iii) Political polarization:

Deep-seated divisions among political parties, ethnic groups, and religious factions have led to a fragmented political landscape, making consensus-building and decision making challenge.

### iv) Military intervention:

The military has repeatedly intervened in politics, perpetuating a culture of authoritarianism and undermining democratic norms.

### v) Terrorism and Extremism:

Pakistan has struggled with internal security threats, including terrorism and extremism, which have destabilized the country and deterred investment.

## Consequences of political instability:



i) **Economic growth:**

Political instability has discouraged foreign investment, hindered economic development, and led to a decline in GDP growth.

ii) **Human development:**

Political instability has diverted resources away from essential public services, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

iii) **Social cohesion:**

Political polarization and extremism have exacerbated social divisions, threatening national unity.

iv) **International relations:**

Pakistan's political instability has strained relationships with neighbouring countries, the international community, and the global investors.

v) **Human rights:**

Political instability has led to

human rights violations, curtailment of civil liberties, and suppression of political dissent.

### **Solutions:**

- i) **Strengthening Democratic institutions:**  
Pakistan must strengthen its democratic institutions, ensuring their autonomy and effectiveness.
- ii) **Promoting Political Inclusivity:**  
The country must foster a culture of political inclusivity, encouraging consensus-building and decision-making.
- iii) **Ensuring military Accountability:**  
The military must be held accountable for its actions, and civilian supremacy must be established.
- iv) **Addressing provincial Disparities:**  
Pakistan must address regional disparities and promote provincial development.



#### v) Combating corruption:

The country must combat corruption, ensuring good governance and accountability.

#### vi) Fostering a culture of tolerance:

Pakistan must promote a culture of tolerance, pluralism, and social cohesion.

#### Conclusion:

Pakistan's elusive political stability is a significant roadblock to its growth and development. Addressing the underlying causes of political instability and implementing reforms to strengthen democratic institutions, promote political inclusivity, and ensure military accountability is crucial.

By doing so, Pakistan can create a conducive environment for economic growth, human development, and regional peace, unlocking its full potential and achieving its rightful place in the community of nations.

Q8 It was rule of congress --- evaluate.

Ans Introduction:

The period between 1937 and 1939 was a pivotal moment in the history of the Indian subcontinent. The Indian National Congress, led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, had just come to power in seven provinces of British India, marking a significant milestone in the Indian freedom struggle. However, this period also saw the seeds of division and separatism being sown, which would eventually lead to the creation of a separate state for Muslims in the subcontinent, Pakistan.

The congress rule during this period has been a subject of much debate and controversy among historians. Some argue that the congress's refusal to accept Muslim League's demands for a separate homeland for Muslims was a major factor in the eventual creation of Pakistan. Others contended that the congress's policies and actions during this



period were aimed at consolidating Hindu dominance over Muslims, further alienating the Muslim community and paving the way for the two nation theory.

### Background:

In 1937, the Indian National Congress, led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, came to power in seven provinces of British India. This was significant milestone in the Indian freedom struggle, as it marked the first time a nationalist party had gained control over a significant portion of the country.

### Muslim League's Demands:

During this period, the Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah began to articulate its demands for a separate homeland for Muslims in India. Jinnah argued that Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations with distinctive cultures,

linguistic, and religious identities, and that a united India would inevitably lead to Muslim marginalization.

### Congress's Response:

The congress government, however, was unwilling to accept the Muslim League's demands. Instead, they proposed a federal structure for India, with significant autonomy for provinces. This proposal was rejected by the Muslim League, which saw it as an attempt to maintain Hindu dominance over Muslims.

### Provincial Elections:

In 1937, provincial elections were held in British India, which saw the congress emerge victorious in most provinces. However, the Muslim League performed poorly, winning only a few seats. This led to a significant shift in the political landscape, with the congress gaining confidence in its ability to represent



all Indians, including Muslims.

### **Muslim - Hindu Divide:**

The congress rule during this period also saw a significant increase in communal tensions between Hindus and Muslims. The Muslim League alleged that the congress was pursuing a pro-Hindu agenda, which further widened the divide between the two communities.

### **Legacy of congress rule:**

The legacy of Congress rule from 1937-1939 is controversial. While it marked a significant milestone in the Indian freedom struggle, it also contributed to the eventual creation of Pakistan. The congress's refusal to accept Muslims League's demands and its perceived pro-Hindu bias further alienated Muslims and paved the way for the Two-Nations theory.

## Conclusion:

In conclusion the congress rule from 1937-1939 played a significant role in the creation of a separate homeland for Muslims in the sub-continent. While the congress's refusal to accept Muslim League's demands were a significant factor, it was not the sole cause of the creation of Pakistan. The complex interplay of political, economic, and social factors ultimately led to the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan.