

Q1

1- Introduction: Critical evaluation of hurdles in making new provinces and recommendations

Since ^{the} inception of Pakistan, the debate of new provinces is going on. The main reasons of debate are administrative improvement, ethnic recognition, and linguistic bonding. However, there are political, administrative, and economic hurdles that hinders the establishment of new provinces. These highlighting a need for political debate, economic considerations, and public awareness before creating new provinces in the country to improve governance.

2- Historical Debate of New Provinces in Pakistan

Period	Development
1947 - 1955	→ Debate on making new provinces but no development

1970s

→ Public fear of ethnic marginalization after fall of Dhaka

1980s

→ Debate on making Hazara and Saraikistan province

1990s

→ Debates rose to parliament level

2000s

→ Due to effectivity of local government, people realized decentralization importance

2010 - Present

→ Debate gained more attention when PTI got support from South Punjab region to improve governance

3- Hurdles in making of New Provinces

A- Political Instability in the country

Political instability in the country is the major impediment in development of the process of making new provinces. Political instability creates fear of backlash of in the

governing party, which resulted in hampering their focus on taking bold steps (Maleeha Lodhi, Making New Provinces in Pakistan, 2024).

B) Lack of consensus on the basis of making new provinces

There is no consensus on the rule for making new provinces in Pakistan. Some argue that the provinces should be made on administrative grounds. Others argue that it should be on linguistic and ethnic basis (Muhammad Amir Rana, New Province Debate, 2022).

C) Economic Constraints:

Poor economic condition of Pakistan makes it difficult to make new provinces in the country. To make new provinces, there needs a lot of money for infrastructural development. However, Pakistan cannot

separate from the
create budget because around
60% goes in debt repayment
every year (Budget of Pakistan
for Fiscal Year 2025-2026).

D) Fear of Ethnic Conflicts:

Pakistan is consisted
on many ethnic groups. Making
of province for one ethnic group
may cause urge in another
ethnic group to have a province
with their name. Therefore, there
is a fear in Pakistan's government
circles to make provinces on
ethnic basis.

4- Recommendations for making new Provinces in Pakistan

A) Strengthening Local Governance to create awareness in Public

The Constitution of
Pakistan emphasizes on making local
government to improve governance
(Article 144A of the Constitution
of Pakistan). By ensuring the

local government, governance can be improved. It will bring people's awareness about democracy and they can take effective decisions.

B) Institutional thinking to make new provinces

Provinces should not be made on the ~~will~~ of one party as done in the country (Anatol Leiven, Pakistan:

A Hard Country). There should be institutional debates on the matter. The matter should also be discussed briefly in the parliament before making new provinces.

C) Provinces should be made on administrative rather than ethnic or lingual grounds

Pakistan is an ethnically diverse state where making provinces on ethnic or lingual grounds may spark tensions in the country.

Therefore, new provinces should be

made on administrative basis (Nadeem F. Paracha, Improving Governance in Pakistan, 2029).

D) Step-by-step process to reduce financial strain

All provinces should not be made at once, but there should be step-by-step process owing to weak economic situation of Pakistan. It is because, Pakistan's economic growth is very slow.

5- Conclusion

In short, making new provinces debate has a long history in Pakistan due to administrative requirements and fear of ethnic suppression in minorities. Political instability, crippling economy, and lack of public consensus on the standard of making new provinces. There is a need of improving local government, institutional thinking, large scale public debate before making new provinces in Pakistan.