

Pak Affairs

Q.no.2

Critically evaluate the evolution of Pakistan's political system and culture after 1999. How have constitutional developments in this era shaped democratic continuity and governance? Explain.

Pakistan has been through a massive trends of political evolution since its independence in 1947. For a country, had been proclaimed as democratic, had been more ^{been} suffered from undemocratic actions such as military coups enforced earlier by general Ayub Khan in 1958 after the abrogation of constitution by Iskander Mirza, and later by general Zia in 1977 overthrowing Z.A Bhutto's democratic government in Pakistan. ~~but~~ This marked 11 years of an undemocratic era ~~marked~~ by general Zia only in Pakistan's political system. The later years had been passed a shuttlecock politics where the power shifts played a great role; two eras ~~for~~ of Benazir Bhutto and two of Nawaz Sharif alternatively while each government

playing with the constitutional amendments to ~~is~~ through article 58-2b) ~~of~~ ~~as~~ presidential powers to assembly dissolution. Finally in 1999, this short - although shuffling but democratic govt was again overthrown by General Pervez Musharraf ~~when~~ by a military coup. He became the chief executive and dissolved the assembly suspended the constitution ~~and~~ imposed his martial law - although he defended his move "not a martial law but an effort towards democracy".

The 9/11 war on terror in 2001 was a gravest event in Pakistan's political history since it changed the image and status of Pakistan in the ^{eyes of} world - also took place under Musharraf's era. U.S wanted bases from Pakistan (and offered financial and military support) against Afghanistan. It gifted several and persistent waves of terrorism to Pakistan and caused it an eternal instability and hence the economic downfall basically.

The foreign policy of Pakistan had also suffered severely during Musharraf's era. In 2007, general Musharraf's declaration of emergency and reimposition of Martial Law finally ended his reign and gave way to a new democratic era.

The democracy in Pakistan factually began after the end of last military coup of Musharraf. The revival of democracy in Pakistan in 2008 finally offered Pakistan some good opportunities to settle the country's political system. A landmark development in the constitution during this era was 18th amendment which has also been called as the 'revival of democracy' due to its democratic and progressive nature. It was signed and officially in 2008 2010 when Nawaz Sharif served as Prime Minister and Zardari as the President of the country. Also there are several achievements of 18th amendment. First is the deactivation of article 58 2-b which had been the root cause of

political instability in Pakistan. It returned all the executive powers to the Prime Minister and seized the power of assembly dissolution, ~~so that~~ thus stabilized the political system by completely finishing its ~~effects~~ ^{revoking} in the future as well. Secondly it ~~effected~~ ^{reinforced} the freedom of the institutions for example freed Judiciary from politics; Gave other opportunities like free education and free trial etcetera. Moreover, the amendment reactivated CCI and recommended the council of common interest - which ~~was~~ opened ways for mutual understanding b/w of centre and provinces by restricting a ~~90 days~~ ^{at least a} meeting in 90 days where the provinces could talk about their issues to the centre. Also, the provinces were given most of the powers - behind the purpose to making them independent from centre. The 7th NFC award is an example of that also. The issues of the concurrent list - after its abolishment - went in the charge of provinces.

Thus 18th amendment of the constitution played a great role in the democratic continuity in later years.

After Musharraf's era ended, Nawaz Sharif was the first P.M of Pakistan who completed its democratic tenure from 2008 to 2013. The second & tenure of PPP and third of PTI also successfully moved as per

their democratic right. Although Imran Khan's government couldn't complete its tenure due to certain reasons and he was lifted down with no confidence vote by the coalition, his tenure's remaining years were ruled by an interim government. and

It is in a good interest to Pakistan that the democratic continuity of democracy in Pakistan is shaping and stabilizing Pakistan's. Since the governance is weak due to several issues such as policy shakiness and rational & non-traditional threat - which must be settled by the government to ensure democracy in its real sense.

Q.no. 13

The current economic challenges of Pakistan are challenges of Political Economy or the issues are deep rooted in structural flaws in our economy. Take a side and suggest policy measures to address these challenges.

The current economic challenges of Pakistan are more caused by structural flaws in the economy than by challenges of political economy. Pakistan is entangled into a number of structural loopholes in relation to its economy. This includes improper revenue collections, Tax issues, budget deficit, corruption, Debt servicing, Trade deficits, Low progress in the domain of exports and import and other along with the policy flaws.

Addressing core issues, one of them is budget deficit. In the last five years, Pakistan's average budget deficit was 4.5 trillion while the same amount of deficit is measure only in 2023-2024. A tremendous increase in the budget deficit is caused by different reasons. One of them is Collection. Pakistan suffers

is a flawed tax collection system, ~~where~~ ^{in relation} there is partial documentation of the products or companies elsewhere or absence documentation even. In relation to industry, Mega and Medium size of industries are registered but partially which is a smooth way to escape government tax by ~~big~~ hiding the actual amount or value of the product. Same is the problem in real estate. In Islamabad, a house in Q10 was sold in 15 crores and 7 Lacs but the documentation was 8 crores as per the DC rate. The 3% tax according to the DC rate saved the owner/seller a 23 Lacs which were the right of the govt. The property dealers deals ~~with~~ in files where the actual number is kept hidden from the FBR. Similarly, Retailers, for example "shopping malls", the number of products sold are more and shown less to FBR to save tax. where as small shopkeepers are not even registered.

Another problem is theft of sales tax and annual income tax. Business almost 70% are not audited and hence dependent on tax inspector which triggers theft as based on the good will bcz the inspector ~~the~~ decides

then the size of business and earning. Besides, The agriculture sector is the domain that contributes 24% of the GDP but its tax contribution is less than 1% - due to theft and corruption. Furthermore, the tax rates are higher but the tax net is smaller; More than 70% of the houses, cars and owners are non-filers or non registered which keeps the burden on poor and minor amount of registered tax payers only - while the big fishes are out of tax net - Thus there is more expenditure but lesser earning or collecting.

Debt servicing is another key issue in economic structure of Pakistan. Due to budget deficit, Pakistan has to take loans to run the country. This includes IMF bailouts and domestic and international loans - which Pakistan has to pay with interest in the given period. Already suffering from budget deficit, a fine amount of federal budget goes to pay off the loans episodes. Which burdens the country even more, thus at the end, Pakistan needs more loans to fill up its Foreign reserves. This is a circular

debt crises, in which the country is drowning. The economic dependence also influences policies such as an increase in the indirect taxes reinforced by IMF & as a condition for its long term loan packages. As a result, labour class suffers more.

The subsidies ~~cost~~ is also working behind increasing circular debt. Specially the subsidy on oil which is an advantage for more to rich classes than the poor as per the amount of energy the classes consume on daily basis.

Moreover, the export and import patterns of Pakistan are not normal. More imports and less exports in an already weakened economy causes trade deficit. Trade deficit is an crucial factor to weaken Pakistan's economy. The reason to ~~lower~~ low exports is the inefficient industry and inefficiency of industry is caused by government policies. Besides, Pakistan exports raw material and half finished things rather than fully finished. In the international market, raw material

is sold in lowest prices and finished products cost high. Pakistan exports raw material while imports finished and luxury goods which cost Pakistan more than it earns.

Policy Measures:

The policy options to strengthen Pakistan's economic structure are:

1. Documentation and Automation - Although an initiative to track and trade system through digital means has already been taken by the Country in several domains for example: in industry, it needs further expansion and promotion. When the companies and domestic trade is tracked by computers, the chances of corruption will be minimized.

2. The increase of tax net - Because of the loopholes in collection of direct tax, the Country's economy suffers. It's like eating 30 small fishes but leaving 70 whales of different big sizes. The government must force or make policies to register more people into the tax net - When large number of people; businessmen, company owners will begin to pay due taxes, it will surely boost Pakistan's economy. Also increasing taxes on agriculture. Provinces should maximize

their tax allocating capabilities. i.e. real estate, agriculture are overwhelmingly depend on centre for finance.

3. The government should make structural reforms, for example, Tax reforms, reforms in Industry and agriculture sector, in power sector and IT reforms to strengthen the overall economic structure.

Q.No. 8

Evaluate the role of key political and social ideologies in the Pakistan Movement between 1930 to 1947. How did events such as the Allahabad Address, Congress Ministries of 1937 and Lahore Resolution influence the demand for a separate homeland?

Between 1930 and 1947, the Pakistan Movement evolved from a demand for Muslim political safeguard into a struggle for an independent homeland. The process was shaped by key ideological, political and social developments, as Muslims realized that their distinct identity could not be preserved within a united India dominated by the Hindu majority.

Ideological Foundations:

1- The Two-Nation Theory -

The cornerstone of Pakistan movement was the Two-Nation Theory, which emphasized that Muslims and Hindus were two distinct nations, each with its own religion, culture, values, and

civilization. Muslims could not accept Hindu domination after British Departure. This ideology provided a strong justification for separation, arguing that coexistence under a single political system would spoil muslim culture and political rights.

2- Islamic Identity and Political Unity—

Islam acted as the unifying force among diverse muslim populations of India—Sindhis, Punjabis, Bengalis, Pathans and Baloch. Despite ethnic and linguistic differences, they shared the same faith and moral framework. Leaders such as Allama Iqbal and Mohammad Ali Jinnah emphasized Islam not just as a religion but as a complete social order guiding to political, economic and cultural life. This reinforced a sense of shared destiny and purpose among Muslims.

3- Modern Muslim Nationalism—

Muslims leaders redefined nationalism in a way that balanced Islamic principles with modern political thought. They rejected western secular model of nationalism and sought constitutional safeguards, political autonomy

and economic independence. This vision laid the groundwork for a modern Islamic state that could protect Muslim interests in the changing colonial setup.

Political Developments:

1- Allahabad Address of Allama Iqbal in 1930 —

Iqbal's Allahabad address was an ideological turning point of the movement. He proposed the creation of a Muslim state in North-western India. He argued that Muslims were not a minority but a separate nation entitled to self-determination. This vision gave the movement of Pakistan its intellectual foundation and inspired future leadership — including Jinnah to think beyond constitutional reforms towards a separate homeland.

2- Congress ministries — (1937-39)

The elections of 1937 brought Congress governments to power in most provinces. During their rule, discriminatory policies such as — promotion of Hindi over Urdu, imposition of Vande Mataram in schools, and bias in administrative appointments and education —

It alienated Muslims from Congress. These experiences exposed the Hindu majority mindset, convincing Muslims that their rights could not be protected within a Hindu-dominated system. According to Jinnah, this period made clear the difference between Congress rule and self rule, and it revived the Muslim League as the true representative of Muslims.

3- Lahore Resolution (1940)

The Lahore Resolution passed on March 23rd, 1940 - a formal political articulation of the demand for Pakistan. It declared that Muslim-majority areas in the north west and east should form independent state where Muslims could live freely according to their culture and religious values. The resolution unified the Muslim community and turned the League into a mass political movement under Jinnah's leadership.

This event marked the transformation of Muslim political thought into a clear and achievable goal as the creation of Pakistan.

From 1930 to 1947, the Pakistan Movement was driven by a combination of Islamic ideology, political experiences and mass mobilization. Since 1930's vision gave it an ideological foundation, Congress' rule exposed the reality of Hindu dominance, and the Lahore Resolution provided a defined political direction. Together, these forces transformed Muslim political consciousness from a struggle for minority rights into a nationwide demand for an independent homeland Pakistan.