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Evolution of Pakistan's political system?

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Introduction:

Pakistan has been in vicious cycle of political instability and constitutional crisis since its inception. The multitude of factors such as leadership crisis, demographic issues and linguistic divide etc had never allow Pakistan's political system to run smooth. Moreover, civil-military relations were always strained, ultimately result in military coups, weakening democratic spirit of new born state. However, after 1999, there was a ray of hope for democratic stability in Pakistan, later in the form of 2008 elections. The same political reforms and constitutional developments put the trajectory of democracy on right path.

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Historical Overview of Political System of Pakistan: Before 1999

The overview

DATE: ___/___/___

of Pakistan's political system before 1999 is presenting bleak scenario in a following way:

(i) Suspension of Constitutions:

The constitutions of Pakistan have suspended thrice in 1958, 1962, 1973. This was blow to spirit of democracy. The military leadership had suspended constitution for power gain.

(ii) Military Coups:

Pakistan had faced military coups cumulatively for thirty years. The strained civil-military relationship resulted in weakening of political culture in Pakistan.

(iii) Musical Chair of Democracy

The musical chair of democracy had

DATE: ___/___/___

further hampered evolution of political system in Pakistan. Till 1999, not a single government completed its tenure.

1988-1990 = Benazir Bhutto as
↓ a prime minister

1990-1993 = Nawaz Sharif

↓
1993-1996 = Benazir Bhutto

↓
1996-1999 = Nawaz Sharif

→ Evolution of Political system and culture after 1999

After 1999, Pakistan's political system and culture have seen ray of hope in restoration of democracy in the form of emergence of printing media, general election and many more. Following are the evolution processes and factors.

(i) The Liberal Autocrat: Musharraf Regime

The regime of

DATE: ___/___/___

General Musharraf after dismissal of Nawaz Sharif's government came in power. He took following steps in his regime.

(a) Legal Framework Order 2002

This Legal Framework Order 2002 was a set of amendments in 1973 constitution to increase presidential powers such as dissolving of National Assembly.

(b) Referendum 2002

Under the Legal Framework Order, the referendum in 2002 took place. Gen. Musharraf declared himself as Chief Executive.

(c) Emergence of Print Media

In Musharraf regime, there was emergence of printing media on national horizon.

(d) Movement of Restoration of Judiciary

The movement of ^{restoration of} judiciary was observed in Musharraf regime. It was lead by lawyers, political party of Nawaz Sharif. This movement was set back to Musharraf regime.

(e) 17th Ammendment: December 2003

In Musharraf regime, 17th ammendment was passed to reverse 13th ammendment. Under this ammendment, ~~art 58(2b)~~ : was added back into 1973 constitution and gave authority to president.

(f) Devolution of Power to Lower Levels:

Musharraf regime introduced devolution plan 2000. Under this plan, the power of DMG had reduced and power was transtened to local tiers of government.

(ii) Charter of Democracy:

In 2006, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif had signed Charter of Democracy in London with the aim of restoring democracy in Pakistan.

(iii) Election - 2008

After long tenure of Gen Musharraf, the elections were held in 2008. In the election, Pakistan Peoples Party won and made government.

(iv) 18th Amendment: The Dawn of Democracy

In 2010, the National Assembly of Pakistan had passed the 18th Amendment. It was a major constitutional amendment in which half of articles of constitution amended.

This amendment curtails the powers of president and gives power to provinces.

It also stopped the way of any military adventure by adding article 6(A) and removing 58(2b).

Therefore, it is pertinent to say that the passing of 18th ammendment is a good omen for democracy.

(v) Smooth Transition of Powers

The first time in political history of Pakistan, the government (2008-13) completed its tenure. It has lead to stability of democracy. After that, general elections was held and government came with peoples will.

(vi) 26th Ammendment: The Constitutional Ammendment

The latest ammendment passed in 2024 was 26th ammendment. It has made the judicial appointments politically. as parliamentarians and judiciary will mutually decide appointment of Chief Justice.



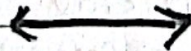
Critical Analysis:

Critically, Pakistan has seen ups and down in political landscape and survived many misadventures and weaknesses. The political festivity seemed to pursue vested interest rather than democratic values. However, after 1999, many developments were made to strengthen democracy. Today, Pakistan is on right political trajectory.



Conclusion:

It can be concluded that Pakistan was politically unstable in its early years. The unwillingness of leaders and legislatures blew the democracy. The political system and culture evolved in different eras. Finally, it get stability and transition after 2008.



Q.8→ Introduction:

The creation of Pakistan is not a single event process but it is a multi-evolutionary process and different events and factors aided in its creation. The basis of demand of Pakistan was Two Nation Theory. Allama Iqbal provided philosophical explanation and Quaid-e-Azam turned it into political reality. The events such as Aligarh Congress, Ministries and Lahore Resolution had monumental role in creation of Pakistan. These events had subtle effects on Muslims of United India and gathered them under the idea of Two Nation Theory in more practical way.

→ Key Social Ideologies Between 1930-1947:

Following are the key social ideologies between 1930-1947.

(i) The Two Nation Theory

This was the most influential theory in the United India. According to this theory, Muslims and Hindus were two separate nation by any definition. The culture, religion, food, history etc made two nations distinct to each other in every way.

(ii) Composite Nationalism

Composite Nationalism was alternative theory to reject Two Nation Theory. This theory advocated for united India under British rule.

* This theory was supported by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Moulana Azad prominently.

DATE: ___/___/___

Alabad Address - 1930 :

Allama Iqbal was a supporter of United India in initial day. Later, he was in favour of separate Muslim homeland. He presented his idea of separate homeland in 1930 at Alabad.

"I want to see the Punjab, NWFP, Sindh and West in one homogenous state. Whether India get independence or under the crown of England or without it, I think independent state of western province is the destiny of people living there."

This address of Iqbal was influential in Pakistan Movement as it was the first time, Muslims got the idea of separate homeland. It encouraged

them to speed up their efforts for creation of Pakistan. The idea separate homeland was infused into Muslims of United India by Iqbal.

→ Congress Ministries-1937-1939

(i) An overview of Congress Ministries

Congress Ministries were won by Congress in selection of 1937. Congress made the provincial governments in 8 provinces. The result of 1937 election was shocking for Muslims as winning of Muslims were restricted to only Muslim majority areas.

(ii) Attrocities of Congress Ministries

After coming into power, Congress had started its anti-Muslim activities and policies against Muslims such as

- (a) Hosting of tricolour flag in schools and offices

DATE: ___/___/___

- (b) Hindi was declared as national language
- (c) Vidyā Mandir scheme and Warda Taleemi scheme were launched which anti-Muslim in spirit.
- (d) Economic marginalization of Muslims in businesses.
- (e) Banning on slaughtering of cow.

All above mentioned atrocities of Congress ministries had compelled Muslims that without separate electorate, it would have impossible to gain power in legislature and they could never win elections in Muslim-minority provinces.

According to Jaswant Singh,

"The Congress tenure had tremendous shock for Quid-e-Azam.

→ Influence of Congress Ministries on Muslims

After the provincial elections of 1937 and policies of Congress ministries, Muslim League had realized;

* Congress is no more party of Muslims as it claimed to be national party of United India.

* Muslim League has failed to represent Muslim minorities areas.

* Muslim League confronted with a fact that the Hindu majority provinces would be ruled by Hindus but Muslim League would not represent largest provinces with Muslim majority such as Bengal and Punjab.

All above mentioned realizations compelled Quaid-e-Azam to speed up efforts and improvement loopholes of 1937 elections.

→ Lahore Resolution - 1940

Lahore Resolution acts as a Magna Carta in history of Pakistan

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Movement. It was the last phase of struggle of Pakistan. Lahore Resolution was passed on 23rd March 1940 in Lahore, presided by Quaid-e-Azam. It impacted Pakistan Movement in a following way:

(i) Marked Beginning of Pakistan Movement

Lahore Resolution was marked as beginning of Pakistan Movement. It gave the formal acceptance to separate idea of homeland of Muslims.

The Hindu press called it "The Pakistan Resolution".

(ii) Safeguard of Identity

Lahore Resolution proved to be guard of identity of Pakistan by presenting idea of Pakistan. It had safeguarded interest of Muslim identity.

(iii) Proof of Two Nation Theory

The Lahore Resolution proved a Two Nation Theory that Hindus and Muslims are two separate nations.

(iv) A Sense of Identity for Muslims

Lahore Resolution, by presenting idea of Pakistan, infused sense of identity for Muslims as separate nation.

(v) Establishment of Islamic State and Protection of Muslim Culture

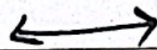
Lahore Resolution paved the idea for establishment of Islamic state with Islamic political system. Also, Lahore Resolution had protected Muslim culture in longer term and Urdu as a national language.

→ Conclusion:

To sum it all,
the creation of Pakistan
as a separate homeland for
Muslims was a multievolutionary
process. The events between 1930
to 1940 had shaped
the political struggle of
Pakistan Movement and infused
sense of separate homeland
in Muslims of United
India. Under the leadership
of Quaid-e-Azam, Pakistan
came into being.

ہے ان تازہ خدوئیں میں سب سے بڑا اولیٰ ہے
جو پیروں ہے، اس کا جذبہ کشش ہے

(اقبال)



Q.4

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Introduction:

Pakistan and Afghanistan have had a history of strained relations. The ups and downs of relations are due to multiple factors ranging from shared history to current dynamics. The withdrawal of USA from Afghanistan was celebrated in Pakistan among masses as it was thought that new Taliban government would strengthen ties with Pakistan. But this thought proved to be illusion. The current Taliban regime has soaring relations with Pakistan over cross-border terrorism, refugees crisis and regional alliances. However, there are opportunities for both Pakistan and Afghanistan in bilateral ties at parity.

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Historical Overview of Pakistan - Afghanistan Relationship.

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Historically, Pakistan and Afghanistan ups and down in trajectory of bilateral relations. After independence of Pakistan, Afghanistan had opposed its creation and its membership in United Nation.

(1) Timeline of Relationship:

Oppose creation of Pakistan



Oppose membership of Pakistan in UNO



Pakistan aided Afghan against Soviet Union and Communism



Pakistan provided shelter to 4 million Afghan Refugees in 1990s



Incident of 9/11 happened and Pakistan sided America in 2000



Brings Taliban and USA on negotiation table for withdrawal of America (2021)



Provide access to
Afghanistan to Pakistan
for Trade



Educational Scholarships
to Afghan students

→ Current Overview of Bilateral Ties :: Post 2021

After 2021,
both countries tried to
normalize their relations
by providing humanitarian aid
to Afghanistan. Later, the
cross-border militancy destabilizes
relations.

(1) Cross-border Militancy

The cross
- border militancy and attacks
of TTP on Pakistan army
had blew the bilateral ties.
Pakistan repeatedly ask Afghan

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government to ~~also~~ take action against TLP. The denial of Taliban government to take action further strained relations.

(ii) Attack of Pakistan on Kabul: Targeted strikes

Recently, in month of October 2025, Pakistan decided to launch targeted strikes on TLP camps in Kabul. Afghan government retaliated and suspend diplomatic ties.

(iii) Return of Afghan Refugees: Refugees crisis

Pakistan has decided to return Afghan refugees in phases. Afghan government considered this against humanity and showed reluctance to accept refugees. This refugees crisis is another factor in undermining bilateral relations.

(iv) Border Security Issue

Afghanistan did not consider Durand Line

DATE: ___/___/___

as border. Pakistan has decided to seal this porous border in order to control militancy. Afghanistan was not in favour of security and sealing of border. It intensified Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

(v) Alliance of India and Afghanistan: A New Height

Recently, the foreign and defense minister of Afghanistan had visited India. The warmth in relations hint that Afghanistan and India has choose each other in regional alliance against Pakistan.

Amid the Pakistan - Afghanistan military escalation, the visit of Afghan's official to India has strained current bilateral relations.

(vi) Closure of Trade:

After recent

border skirmishes, Pakistan has closed its border for trade of Afghanistan.

Also, it suspended access of Afghanistan's exports to sea route.

→ Critical Analysis.

Critically, it can be analyzed that Pakistan and Afghanistan had a history of strained relations since inception of Pakistan.

The instability in Balochistan, separatist movement and militancy have ties with Afghanistan soil. Currently, both countries are in strained relations due to aforementioned factors. Both countries need to take practical measures to bridge the trust gap as neighbours can not be altered.

→ Conclusion

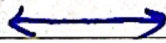
To sum it all, Pakistan and Afghanistan are in turmoil in terms

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of bilateral ties. The refugees crisis, border security and growing warmth of Afghanistan and India are aiding factors in Soaring of relations.

Moreover, crossborder militancy has intensified relations.

Therefore, diplomatic negotiations and sane measure are required to put the relation on upward trajectory.



Q.5

→ Introduction:

Pakistan and USA have relationship of bizzare marriage. At one time, they share warmth and next moment, they are in contradictions. This convineant relation, is once again in global horizon as most discussing topic because both countries are experiencing a new height of friendship. USA sees Pakistan as strategic partner because it is seeking air-base in Afghanistan to counter China. On the other side, Pakistan sees USA as transactional cooperation.

As British Prime Minister

Palmerston said,

"We have no enemies, no eternal allies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual and it is our duty to follow interests."

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→ Timeline of Historical Dynamics of PAK-USA Relations

SEATO (1954)

Defense Alliance

CENTO (1955)

Mutual Resistance
Against Soviet
Union (1979)

Mutual cooperation

War on
Terror (2000)

Pakistan provided
assistance in
return USA
provided Aid

Soaring
relations

USA withdrawl
from Afghanistan



Current Overview of Pakistan - USA Relations:

The warmth of Pakistan - USA relations can be seen in following recent developments:

(i) Public Praises of Pakistan's Leadership by Trump

President Trump is seen publicly in praising Pakistan. He praised Pakistan during a joint address of US Congress which surprised those who think Pakistan is not relevant to Washington. He also praised military leadership of Pakistan.

(ii) Invitation by Trump to Military Leadership in Oval Office

President Trump invited military leadership and political leadership of Pakistan into Oval Office.

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(iii) Nomination of Trump by Pakistan
for Peace Prize

President
Trump has been nominated
by Pakistan for Noble
Peace Prize. According to
Pakistan, Trump has prevented
PAK-India war in May 2025.

(iv) Investment in Mineral sector

President
Trump made historic announce-
ment of \$500 billion in
mineral sector of
Pakistan.

(v) Aid for Flood

President
Trump announced aid for
flood affectees in Pakistan
in 2025. This announcement
came when America is
backing from all
its humanitarian
commitments globally.

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Nature of Relationship: Strategic Partnership for USA

USA
sees Pakistan as a strategic partner to pursue its strategic goals in region. After Pak-Ind war in May, 2025, America has tilted towards Pakistan. USA knows Pakistan's capacity in terms of military, now it is seeking air-bases in the region to counter China. For countering China in the region, USA has now chosen Pakistan.

Conclusion:

To sum it all, Pakistan and USA are at new heights of cooperation after bumpy relations. The Trump era is welcoming Pakistan with new opportunities yet China is also a reliable partner of Pakistan. Pakistan must act as a sane nation to balance both diplomatically and should not join camp politics.

