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Introduction:

The Pakistan movement (1930-1947) was not a sudden occurrence but the culmination of evolving political, social, and ideological currents that shaped Muslim identity in the subcontinent. The movement reflected a deep struggle to preserve Muslim distinctiveness in the face of growing majoritarian nationalism. Between 1930 and 1947, a combination of ideological foundations, political experiences, and historical events transformed Muslim consciousness from demands for safeguards within India to the ultimate call for a separate homeland.

Political and Social ideologies behind the movement:

① Two-nation theory:

The cornerstone of the movement was the Two-nation theory, asserting that Muslims and Hindus were distinct nations with different religions, cultures, social systems, and historical experiences. This ideology was strengthened by the realization that political independence without religious and cultural protection would lead to Hindu domination. It evolved from the writings of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and gained intellectual depth under Allama Iqbal and Jinnah.

② Islamic identity and cultural preservation:

Islamic ideology provided a unifying force for Muslims scattered ^{across} ~~over~~ India. It became not only a religion but also a symbol of social justice, equality, and moral governance. Movements such as Khilafat movement (1919-24) had already infused political consciousness with Islamic sentiment laying the groundwork for a distinct Muslim identity.

③ Constitutional and Political Realism:

Muslim leadership, especially under Jinnah, developed a pragmatic political ideology seeking constitutional guarantees for Muslim's representation. After repeated betrayals by the Congress and failed power sharing arrangements, this realism evolved into the demand for sovereignty. The political ideology of Muslim League thus shifted from cooperation to separation as a means of safeguarding Muslim interests.

④ Social reforms and modernist thought:

Leaders like Allama Iqbal emphasized a modern, dynamic interpretation of Islam that would guide socio-economic and political progress. His vision inspired Muslims to reimagine themselves as a nation capable of self-rule, combining spiritual unity with modern governance.

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Key events shaping the demand for a separate homeland:

① The Allahabad Address (1930):

Delivered by Allama Iqbal during the Allahabad session of All-India Muslim League, this address laid the philosophical foundation of Pakistan. Iqbal envisioned a separate federation of Muslim majority provinces in north-western India, emphasizing that Islam was not merely a personal faith but a social order. The address crystallized Muslim political thought and introduced the idea of Muslim nationhood in concrete geographical terms.

② Congress Ministries (1937-39):

The formation of Congress ministries after the 1937 provincial elections proved to be a turning point. Under Congress rule, Muslims experienced systematic discrimination. Urdu was replaced by Hindi in schools, the singing of Bande Mataram was enforced, and Muslims faced exclusion from government jobs and education. These policies convinced Muslims that Congress concept of nationalism was, in essence, Hindu nationalism. As a result, Jinnah's warning that "Congress rule is Hindu rule" resonated deeply, transforming Muslim League from a weak organization into a mass movement.

③ The Lahore Resolution (1940):

Passed at the annual session of AGML in Lahore, this resolution was a political manifestation of Jinnah's philosophical vision. It formally demanded "Independent states" in Muslim majority areas of India. This resolution transformed the Muslim struggle from demands for a constitutional safeguards into a full fledged movement for sovereignty and statehood. It unified diverse Muslim regions under the single goal of independence.

Ideological consolidation (1940-47):

Between 1940-47, the Pakistan movement gained momentum under Jinnah's leadership. He articulated a vision of Pakistan based on democracy, Islamic principles, and equality. The formation of the Cabinet mission plan (1946) and the communal violence during partition further convinced Muslims that co-existence in a united India was impossible.

Conclusion:

The Pakistan movement was driven by intertwined political and social ideologies that emphasized Muslim distinctiveness, cultural preservation, and political self determination. The Allahabad address

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provided its philosophical foundation, the Congress ministries offered empirical proof of Hindu domination, and the Lahore resolution gave it a concrete political framework. Between 1930-47, these ideological and historical milestones ~~framework~~ transformed Muslim identity from a minority consciousness into a sovereign national vision.

Q₂ Introduction:

Since 1999, Pakistan's political evolution has been marked by a recurring struggle between civilian supremacy and military dominance, constitutional engineering, judicial activism, and the public demand for democratic accountability. The post 1999 period, beginning with General Pervez Musharraf's military coup, has witnessed cycles of controlled democracy, judicial assertiveness, and efforts at institutional consolidation. The interplay of these factors has profoundly shaped Pakistan's democratic trajectory, governance capacity, and political culture in 21st century.

① Military intervention and controlled democracy (1999-2008):

The military coup of October 1999, ousting PM

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Nawaz Sharif, suspended the constitution and set Pakistan on a path of semi-authoritarian rule. General Musharraf justified his take over under the "doctrine of necessity", claiming to restore "true democracy" through accountability and devolution.

The legal framework order 2002 amended the 1973 constitution, enhancing the presidential powers, legitimizing military rule, and institutionalizing the national security council, a body that formalized the military's role in governance. Although the 2002 general elections restored a facade of civilian rule, the political system remained under tight control through loyal allies like PML-Q. This era witnessed hybrid governance.

② Judicial activism and civil society mobilization (2007-8):

Musharraf's dismissal of Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudry in 2007 ignited the lawyers movement, marking the resurgence of civil society and judiciary as autonomous actors. The movement not only eroded Musharraf's legitimacy but also reintroduced a democratic spirit in Pakistani politics. It showcased how political rule was evolving beyond elite driven politics towards civic participation and rule of law consciousness. The 2008 elections, after

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Benazir's assassination, brought the PPP to power, ending 9-year of military led governance.

③ Democratic transition and constitutional consolidation (2008-13):

The PPP government (2008-13) marked the first peaceful civilian transition since 1971 and introduced vital constitutional reforms to rebalance the federation. The 18th constitutional amendment (2010) was the most significant democratic milestone of the post 1999 era. It

- restored parliamentary supremacy by reducing presidential powers (article 58(2)(b)).
- Strengthened provincial autonomy and fiscal devolution.
- Ensured judicial independence and redefined the appointed process.
- Recognized the importance of local governance.

These reforms institutionalized the federal structure envisioned in 1973 and marked a move toward participatory governance.

④ Rise of electoral competitiveness and populist politics (2013-18):

The 2013 elections witnessed the first peaceful transfer of power between two civilian governments, from the PPP to PML-N led by Nawaz Sharif, symbolizing democratic continuity. However, populist

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mobilization by PTI under Imran Khan introduced a confrontational political culture characterized by protests, sit-ins, and claims of electoral rigging. While such populism enhanced political participation, it simultaneously weakened institutional trust, polarized the polity and empowered extra-constitutional forces. Judicial and military influence reemerged, culminating in Nawaz Sharif's disqualification under article 62(1)(f).

⑤ The hybrid regime and democratic regression (2018-22):

The PTI government represented a ^{new} phase often described as a hybrid regime, wherein civilian leadership operated under implicit military oversight. While the PTI pursued anti-corruption and welfare narratives, governance remained centralized and personalized, undermining institutional autonomy. Civil-military tensions resurfaced in 2021-22, leading to Imran Khan's ouster through no confidence motion, the first of its kind in Pakistan's history.

⑥ Post-2022 polarization and constitutional uncertainty:

Post-2022 politics reflect extreme polarization, institutional confrontation, and erosion of constitutional norms. Judicial overreach, the role of security

institutions in politics and deepening economic instability have undermined governance.

⑦ Impact of constitutional developments on democratic continuity and governance:

Constitutional developments after 1999, particularly the 17th, 18th, and 19th amendments, significantly shaped governance and democracy.

→ The 17th amendment (2003) consolidated presidential dominance under Musharraf's rule.

→ The 18th amendment (2010) reversed authoritarian legacies, strengthened parliamentary sovereignty, and deepened federalism.

→ The 19th amendment (2010), refined judicial appointment processes, enhancing judicial independence.

These reforms provided democratic continuity.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's political system since 1999 has evolved through phases of military dominance, constitutional reform, and populist democracy. While constitutional developments, especially the 18th amendment, strengthened parliamentary institutions and federalism, the persistence of political polarization, weak governance, and establishment interference have hindered true

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democratic consolidation. Pakistan's challenge, therefore, is not the absence of constitutional democracy, but its inconsistent application. Only through institutional respect, political tolerance, and rule of law can Pakistan transform constitutional continuity into genuine democratic governance.

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Introduction:

The fall of Kabul in August 2021 and the return of the Taliban to power marked a new phase in Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. Initially viewed in Islamabad as a strategic opportunity to establish a friendly regime in Kabul, this optimism has gradually given way to mistrust and tension. Since 2021, relations have been shaped by three interlinked issues, border insecurity, the refugee crisis, and shifting regional alignments which together reflect the fragile nature of Pakistan-Afghanistan engagement in the post-US withdrawal era.

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Early post-2021 optimism and strategic expectations:

When the Taliban regained control in 2021, Pakistan welcomed the change, anticipating a stable, cooperative neighbour that would help secure the western

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frontier. Islamabad hoped that the Taliban government would curb anti-Pakistan militant groups, particularly the TTP, and ensure safe regional connectivity through trade and transit routes linked to CPEC. However, as months passed, these expectations proved unrealistic.

② Border security and resurgence of militancy:

The most contentious issues since 2021 has been border insecurity along the Durand line. Despite Pakistan's fencing of over 2,600 km, the border remains porous enabling cross border attacks. Pakistan accuses the Taliban regime of harbouring or tolerating the TTP, which has intensified attacks in KP and Balochistan since 2022. The Taliban government denies these allegations, arguing that the TTP is Pakistan's internal issue and resists military operations against them. Frequent border clashes at Torkham and Chaman have resulted in casualties and border closures, straining trade and people-to-people movement. In retaliation, Pakistan has conducted cross-border strikes targeting TTP hideouts, provoking diplomatic protests from Kabul.

③ Refugee repatriation and humanitarian tensions:

Pakistan host one of the largest Afghan refugee

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populations, estimated over 37 million. After 2021, fresh inflows occurred due to economic collapse and human rights restrictions under Taliban rule. By 2023-24, rising security concerns and economic pressures led Islamabad to launch a voluntary repatriation policy targeting undocumented Afghans. This move was internationally criticized as coercive and inhumane. These tensions have eroded public goodwill and fueled anti-Pakistan sentiment.

④ Regional realignments and shifting geopolitics:

With the U.S. withdrawal, Afghanistan's external engagement now revolves around its neighbours. Pakistan initially positioned itself as the main interlocutor between the Taliban and the global community. However, its influence has waned as the Taliban established independent diplomatic channels with Beijing, Tehran, and Moscow. Meanwhile, Pakistan's deteriorating ties with Kabul and internal instability have weakened its regional leverage. Thus, regional realignments have debited Pakistan's centrality and exposed the limits of its strategic depth policy.

⑤ Economic and Trade relations: A Fragile Link:

Afghanistan's largest trader is Pakistan, yet recurring

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border closures, customs disputes, and security disruptions have damaged commercial flow. Afghanistan increasingly seeks trade diversification through Iran's Chabahar port and central Asian routes, reducing dependence on Pakistani ports.

- ⑥ The role of China and mediation efforts:
China's mediation efforts, including Trilateral dialogues, aim to promote counterterrorism cooperation and regional connectivity. However, TTP attacks in Pakistan and Taliban reluctance to act have frustrated both the countries.

Way forward:

- Establish a joint border coordination mechanism to prevent cross-border infiltration and avoid unilateral actions.
- Collaborate with UNHCR and humanitarian agencies to manage refugee returns with dignity and economic integration.
- Initiate intelligence sharing frameworks with Kabul under Chinese or SCO mediation to curb TTP sanctuaries.
- Adopt a non-interventionist, economic first approach that prioritizes connectivity and co-existence over control.

Conclusion:

Pakistan-Afghan relations after 2021 demonstrates how political change in Kabul has reshaped regional dynamics. What began as hope for a cooperative Islamic neighbour has developed into tension marked by border violence, refugee disputes, and competing regional alignments. Yet, geography and shared challenges bind the two nations together.

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Introduction:

Pakistan's position among the V20 is the product of both global climate change and a domestic development model that amplifies hazards. Climate change increases frequency and intensity of extreme events, while poor land use planning, deforestation, unregulated infrastructure, and weak disaster governance convert those climate shocks into large scale disasters.

Arguments in favour of climate change as the dominant cause:

→ Scientific attribution shows worsening extremes. Recent attribution studies find that Pakistan's heavy monsoon rains and deadly floods were intensified by human induced warming, warmer air holds more

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moisture and produces heavier, more erratic rainfall, a pattern consistent with global climate change. The 2022 and 2025 floods events illustrate how climate change amplifies hydrological extremes and produces "climate whiplash".

→ Pakistan's geography makes it intrinsically exposed, huge glacierized uplands, long river plains, an exposed coastline, and large arid zones mean the country will suffer disproportionately from sea-level rise, glacial melt-driven floods, and shifting monsoon dynamics even if local policy were perfect. UNFCCC report rank Pakistan among the world's most climate vulnerable countries.

→ Without global warming, Pakistan would face fewer and less-intense extremes. So, climate change is a necessary and powerful cause of V20 status.

Policy recommendations - strategy to mitigate risks and enhance resilience:

① Mainstream risk-sensitive development planning:

Enforce zoning, regularize, and relocate high risk settlements with compensation, and require environmental and social impact assessments for major projects.

This reduces exposure at source.

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② Invest in nature based solutions and ecosystem restoration.

Restoration in uplands, riverine buffer zones, wetland restoration and mangrove rehabilitation reduce runoff, stabilize slopes and absorb storm surges, low-cost, high-co-benefit measures that also support livelihoods and biodiversity.

③ Strengthen early warning, preparedness and local disaster governance:

Scale up hydro-meteorological networks, community level early warning, evacuation planning, trained first-responders. Decentralize disaster funds to empower provincial or district preparedness and speed recovery.

④ Build financial resilience:

Join and operationalize instruments like the Global shield, expand catastrophe risk insurance for households and MSMEs, and create sovereign contingent lines for rapid response, this reduces the fiscal shock of disasters. Pakistan has already taken steps as a global shield beneficiary, scale and localize these mechanisms.

⑤ Climate-smart livelihoods and resilient infrastructure:

Prioritize flood-resilient agriculture, drought tolerance crops, water storage and irrigation efficiency, retrofit

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critical infrastructure to withstand extremes. Link resilience projects to employment in affected regions.

⑥ Governance reforms and accountability:

Strengthen institutional coordination, data transparency, and enforcement capacity; prosecute illegal encroachments and require public disclosure of risk assessments for major investments.

⑦ International diplomacy: loss and damage and emissions equity:

Keep pressing for fair loss and damage financing while participating in global mitigation diplomacy. Pakistan's low emissions but high impacts make international climate finance and technology transfer essential to achieving resilience without compromising development.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Pakistan's inclusion among the world's most climate vulnerable nation is primarily the outcome of global climate change rather than domestic policy failures. The unprecedented floods, recurring droughts in Sindh and Balochistan, melting glaciers, and intensifying heatwaves in Punjab and Sindh are all direct manifestations of a warming planet.

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Pakistan contributes less than 1% to global greenhouse gas emissions, yet it bears a disproportionate burden of climate impacts due to its geographic and ecological fragility. While governance lapses and poor planning aggravate the damage. The way forward lies in advocating for climate reparations, climate finance, and adaptation support from industrialized nations, while strengthening local resilience to survive the storms not of its own making.