

Q No 3

## (1) INTRODUCTION

Pakistan has recently achieved macro economic stabilization after nearly dodging default like situation in 2022-23. Although macroeconomic numbers have been stabilized under IMF's SBA and EFF programs, the economic growth has still remained highly limited. It is because the structural weaknesses still persist. Political economy implies how political power sectors influence economic policies and thus outcome. Although political economic culture in Pakistan has remained a lingering issue that has circumscribed the growth, the current economic challenges of Pakistan are due to deep rooted challenges in the economic structures of the country. These structural issues include narrow tax base, fiscal deficit, governance issues, unfriendly business environment, low work ethic, low human capital, inefficient economic sectors, and low exports. However, to resolve these issues following policy measures are addressed: widen tax base, downsize informal economy, invest in

human capital, education and healthcare, rule of law, protect contract sanctity, meritocracy to be prioritized, privatization, trade liberalization and operational autonomy to major sectors of economy.

## (2) STRUCTURAL FLAWS IN THE ECONOMY

### (2.1) Narrow tax base, causing fiscal deficit

The skewed tax base in the country burdens the salaried, middle class. This not only push or incentivize them to enter into informal sector as many do, but also it creates huge burden on national exchequer; as revenue doesnot meet expenditure, causing fiscal deficit.

### (2.2) Governance issues Circumscribe the growth

It included Corruption, Incompetence, Weak rule of law, Opaqueness in the institutions, and red-tapism. These governance flaws hinder economic growth as investors leave the market, taking all their money out.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.....

(2.3) Unfriendly business environment  
push domestic and foreign investment away

unfriendly business environment like rent-seeking, patronage, loyalty over meritocracy, circumscribe the growth through investment both domestic and foreign. It is due to non-accommodating environment that businesses rarely make any substantial growth.

(2.4) Low work ethic limits the potential of growth

It refers to incompetence, in competitiveness, and lack of discipline in the economic sector of the country. The work force is prone to corruption even at tertiary levels. Sanctity of deadline is often violated and inefficiency dominates.

(2.5) Low human capital: increasing poverty, unskilled labour, and illiteracy

Low human capital as in rising poverty, unskilled labor, and illiterate youth frayed the economic sector. Thus, if the workforce is not skilled, literate, and socially protected enough, how come it would perform and reconcile the growth.

(2.6) Inefficient economic sectors, SOEs, and risk-averse policies by institutions

SOEs incur much losses to national exchequers, while inefficient economic sectors are prone to risk-averse policies, making them stagnant and thus a burden.

(2.7) Import-substitution growth over export-led production cause low export and low innovation capital in the major sectors

Import-substitution production and industrialization does not lead to trade surplus. Export-led production is largely absent from the economic discourse of the country, causing low exports.

### (3) POLICY MEASURES TO ADDRESS THESE STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

(3.1) Widen tax base to resolve the issue of fiscal deficit

Widening the tax base would resolve the issue of fiscal deficit that hampers

the country's monetary policies. It would relieve the salaried class and bring tax evasions and exemptions.

(3.2) Increase role of law to resolve governance issue in the country, increasing the economic growth

Improving role of law would help to resolve governance issues in the country like red-tapism, corruption, and market distortions. This would release the stagnant market to flourish and grow with state protection under the role of law.

(3.3) Meritocracy over loyalty, to create business friendly environment

Meritocracy over loyalty fights against rent-seeking, patronage and thus create business-friendly environment.

(3.4) To protect contract sanctity in order to attract domestic and foreign investment, making business friendly environment

In order to create business friendly environment to attract investment it is imperative to ensure the protection of contract sanctity.

Business friendly environment

- Rule of law
- Contract sanctity
- Meritocracy over loyalty

(3.5) Trade liberalization to usher domestic sectors to international market, in order to make them efficient and competitive

In order

to make sectors efficient and competitive, it is necessary to usher them into international market.

It would make them efficient and competitive. Protectionist policies would only make them stagnant.

(3.6) Operational autonomy to increase efficiency of economic sectors

Economic sectors should be by autonomous in their daily operations. Decentralization of authority must be in place. A Board of Governance must be created over each sector, that would do policy-making with consensus. These reforms would increase efficiency.

(3.7) Invest in education and healthcare to create productive human capital

Investing in education and healthcare would create a productive and efficient human capital, ensuring sustainable economic growth.

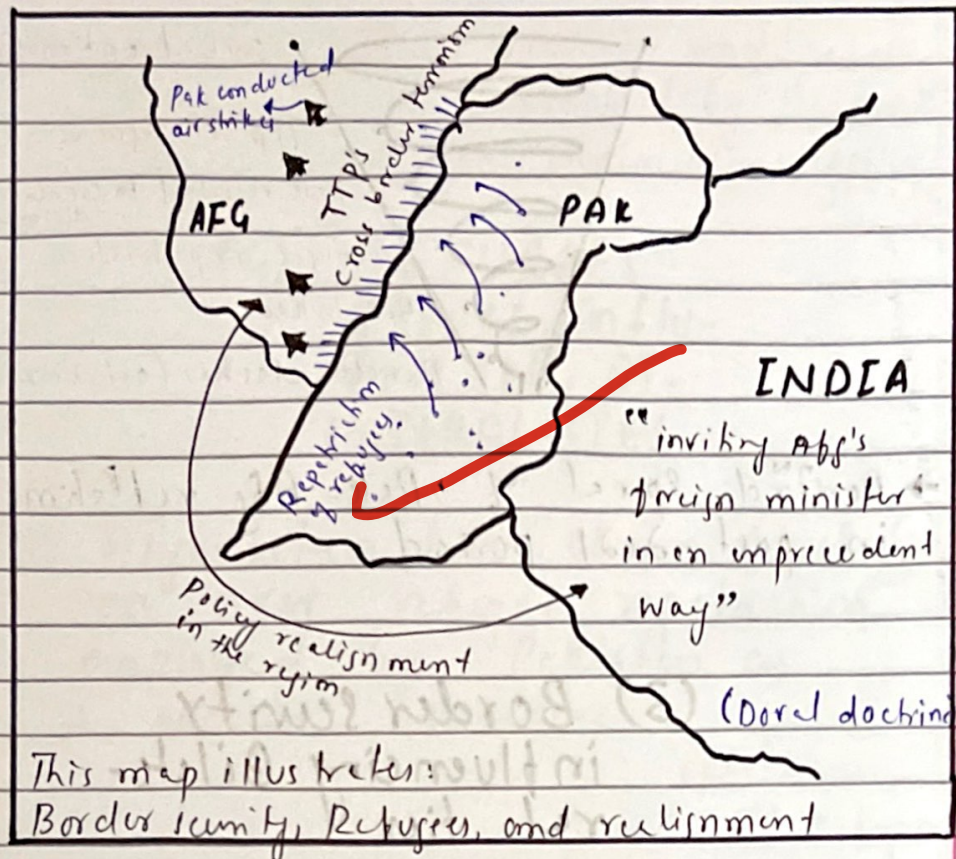
## (4) CONCLUSION

Although Political economic challenges haven't the economic growth, it is the structural flaws deeply rooted in the economy that pose major challenge to the current economic conditions. The flaws include low exports, narrow tax base, weak governance and inefficient sector. The reforms include investment in human capital, operational autonomy to sectors, trade liberalization and creating business-friendly environment.

Q No 4

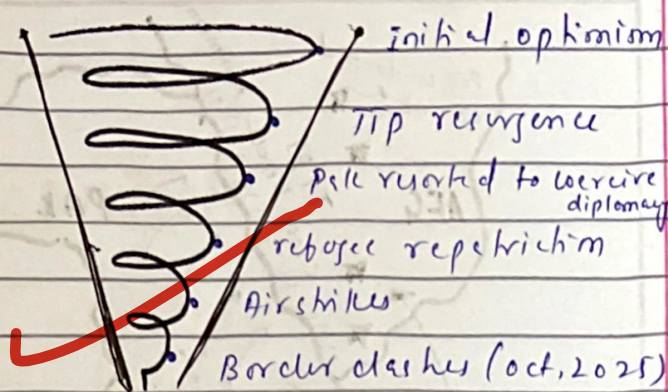
## (1) INTRODUCTION

After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, Afghan Taliban overtook Kabul. The initial optimism in Pakistan shattered when 2021 became the deadliest year historically for Pakistan due to this change in Afghanistan. Pakistan has since then exhausted all diplomatic, economic, social, and military means to coerce the Afghan government to not allow its soil being used against Pakistan. The relations are tense due to insecure border conditions, as cross border terrorism persists from TTP and BIA, enjoying sanctuaries in Afghanistan. To coerce, Pakistan has decided to repatriate Afghan refugees with high pace. The military coercion has led Afghan Taliban to look towards India in order to balance Pakistan's pressure. This regional realignment has further frustrated the bilateral ties.



## (2) TRAJECTORY OF PAKISTAN-AFGANISTAN RELATIONS

The relations have evolved from initial optimism to hostile border clashes and realignment by Taliban to their relations with India. It came all along with TTP and BLA conducting several terror attacks, and Pakistan putting coercive diplomacy at play: closure of border passes (Torkham pass), refugee repatriation, and military airstrikes.



→ Downward spiral of Pak-Af relations in post-2021 period

### (3) Border security influencing Bilateral ties

(3.1) Porous border allow cross border terrorism with TTP and Baloch separatist militants residing in safe havens in Afghanistan, frustrating bilateral ties

The porous border allow TTP and Baloch separatists to intrude inside, conduct terror attacks and flee back. Afghan Taliban sees TTP as ideological brothers. Thus this nexus and continuous cross border terrorism frustrate ties.

(3.2) Afghan Taliban disrupt border fencing as the government still deny to accept Durand line as legitimate demarcation

Pakistan's military fencing and patrolling of border are often disrupted by Afghanistan as the government deny Durand Line legitimacy.

#### (4) REFUGEES

##### ISSUES, INFLUENCING BILATERAL TIES

(4.1) Afghanistan has shown frustration over refugee repatriation employed by Pakistan as a coercive measure.

Pakistan decided to repatriate millions of refugees back to Afghanistan that have come as refugees during Afghan jihad and Global War on Terror. Pakistan took this as social and economic coercive tool against denying of Taliban's take action against TTP.

(4.2) Refugees create huge social and economic burden on Afghan government, worsening the bilateral ties.

These refugees are mostly stucked at the border region between the two countries. They create huge social and economic burden on Afghan government. This move has further worsened the bilateral ties between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

## (5) REGIONAL REALIGNMENT, INFLUENCING BILATERAL TIES

(5.1) Afghanistan has resorted to  
bromance with India to  
achieve strategic leverage  
against Pakistan's use of  
defensive deterrence policy.

Afghanistan's minister went for a six  
day visit to India. This unprecedented  
move was under the realization to  
perform strategic recalibration in  
order to achieve leverage against Pakistan.

(5.2) India is prone to increase its  
presence in Afghanistan to sponsor  
trail of terror in Balochistan  
and Iqbal.

Pakistan feels Indian  
presence as a threat to its security.  
Hosting any Indian presence in  
Afghan soil will further worsen the crisis  
as RAW is complicit in funding TTP & BLA.

(5.3) Afghanistan-India nexus  
deteriorate the bilateral  
ties further.

Afghanistan - India nexus to  
encircle Pakistan would foster  
distrust and deteriorate the ties.

## (6) CONCLUSION

Afghanistan - Pakistan relationship has evolved from initial optimism after Afghan Taliban took over Kabul to border clashes in Oct., 2025. The post-2021 period has brought resurgence of ITF and thus serves the major bone of contention among the two countries. Border insecurity, refugee repatriation, and Indian prominence with Afghanistan have deteriorated the bilateral ties.

Qnos

## (1) INTRODUCTION

After Trump elected as 45th president in White House, he has resorted to deal making tactics to achieve economic numbers for America. He has wished to present himself as a president of peace and growth. Thus, his alignment with Pakistan and strategic distancing from India is transactional, for time-being and not a strategic recalibration with exhaustive policy framing. Moreover, the current government in Pakistan is also interested in geo-economics and its national security against India, which Trump administration is willing to offer. This alignment of ambitions and objectives has led to strategic space in White House for Pakistan. Moreover, these recent engagements of Pakistan and United States are focused and limited to counter-terrorism, trade, investment, and peace in Middle East. Pakistan has resorted to cultivate maximum dividends from this recent thaw in relationship after decade of mistrust.

## (2) CHANGING DYNAMICS OF PAK-US RELATIONS

After years of mistrust during Global War on Terror, during new Trump administration, Pakistan has reclaimed strategic space in White House.

(2.1) Governments in both countries align their ambition and objectives, thawing the relationship

The new governments in both the countries have similar ambitions and objectives: Geo-economics and peace. Therefore, the thaw has been possible. The relationship has been shaped by counterterrorism, peace in Middle East & South Asia.

(2.2) American distancing from India, rehyphenation with Pakistan, creates strategic space

After May-2019 conflict, Pakistan's geopolitical profile rose and diplomacy won to protect interests in White House; however, Indian diplomacy failed miserably to set the narrative. It led to Ind-Pak rehyphenation that frused Indis-US relations and helped Pakistan.

(2.3) Trump administration, does not view India as 'net security provider' against China, creating space for Pakistan

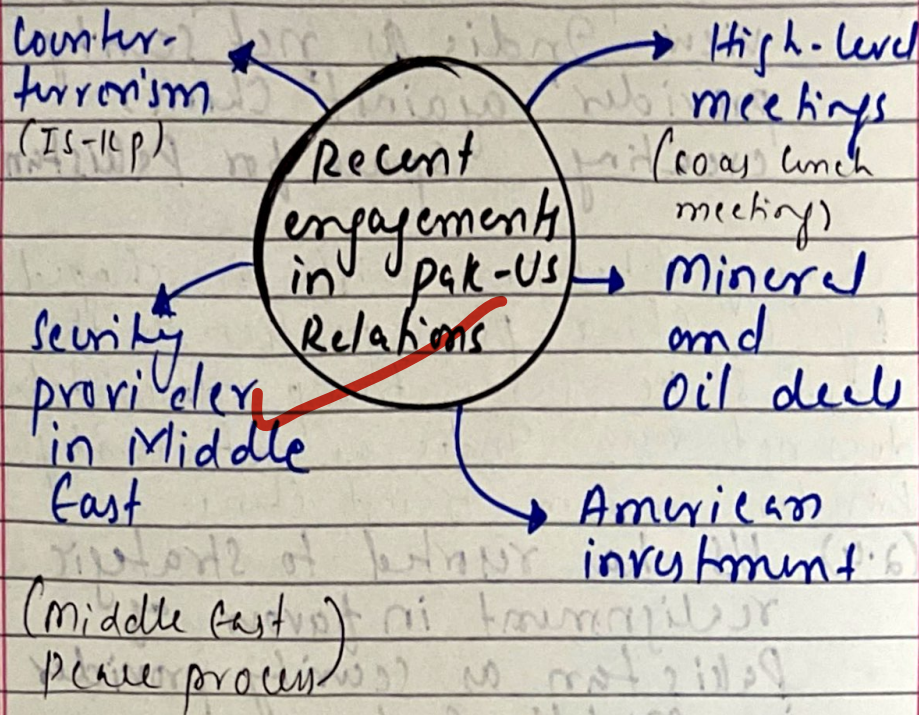
Changing global power shifts are shaped by US-China power politics. In this high stake game, Trump administration does not view India as net security provider anymore against China.

(2.4) US has worked to strategic realignment in favour of Pakistan as security provider in Middle East

US realizes Pakistan's strategic capabilities. It invited Pakistan in U.S. Peace plan. It views Pakistan as net security provider in Middle-East.

(2.5) Trump administration has shown frustration against Indian double games, creating space for Pakistan to balance.

Trump administration frustration resonated during double tariffs on India for its duplicity. India being part of BRICS, purchasing Russian oil, and sponsoring Ukrainian war, have led to distance from India and opportunity for Pakistan.



### (3) THE NATURE OF COOPERATION IS TRANSACTIONAL IN NATURE

(3.1) US strategic culture still views India as strategic partner; thus, realignment with Pakistan is not strategic recalibration

The recent distance from India lacks any strategic recalibration, rather more short-term policy shift. India is still viewed as partner in Indo-Pacific security architecture.

(3.2) US-Pak changing relationship, or recent thaw, is not strategically bonded but mere need of the hour.

Pakistan and US relationship lack any strategic foundation. Thus the relationship is still nascent and focuses merely on soft, common good, projects. This need of the hour substantiate the then a transactional cooperation merely.

(3.3) The relationship is limited thus lacking any strategic foundation.

The relationship focuses on trade, investment and still allows strategic autonomy.

However, any strategic partnership require restraint and entrains a some sovereignty. This is not the case yet; thus, merely relationship transactional.

(3.4) Pakistan's history with US already provides policy framework for the country's foreign policy goals: cultivating maximum dividends and remaining skeptical.

Pakistan's history with US teaches not to elevate hopes but remain skeptical while cultivating mexi-

num benefits for security, geopolitics  
and geo-economics

#### (4) CONCLUSION

The changing dynamics of US-Pak  
relations after new governments  
in both countries are shaped by  
policy realignment in South Asia  
and Middle East that distorts  
India and allow Pakistan to  
reclaim strategic space in White  
House. The relationship still remains  
transactional in nature, lacking  
any mutual strategic need.

Q No 8

## (1) INTRODUCTION

Two-nation theory, Islam, and Muslim identity served as politico-socio-religious foundation to demand and run Pakistan Movement between 1930 to 1947. The evolution of demand for separate homeland started from All India Muslim League Address in 1930 where dream was visualized, solidified during congress ministries and legalised in Lahore resolution of 1940.

## (2) POLITICAL AND SOCIAL IDEOLOGIES IN PAKISTAN MOVEMENT BETWEEN 1930 TO 1947

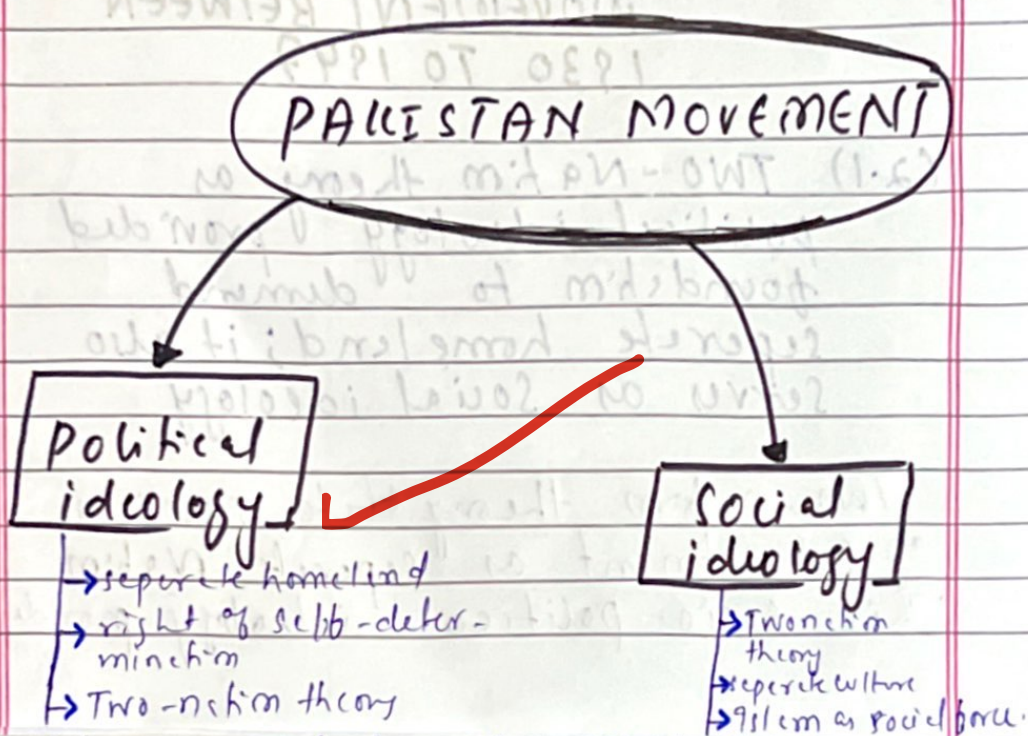
(2.1) Two-Nation theory as political ideology provided foundation to demand separate homeland; it also serves as social ideology

Two-nation theory states Muslims of subcontinent as separate nation. This socio-political ideology provided

direction for separate homeland.  
Two-nation theory provides the  
right to self-determination and  
right of separate homeland.

(2.2) Islam as socio-religio  
ideology was used to navigate  
commonality among different  
ethno-lingual identities of  
muslims to pave the way  
for Pakistan

Islam provided  
foundational base as socio-religio  
ideology to navigate commonality  
among different identities of  
muslims of sub-continent. Islam  
provided the force for mass mobilization; thus, paving the way for Pakistan.



### (3) All India Muslim League Address influencing demand for separate homeland

All India Muslim League Address was delivered by Allama Iqbal in 1930:

"I would like to see North Eastern  
Part of India (Punjab, NWFP) as a separate state for  
Muslims of subcontinent"

(contextual)

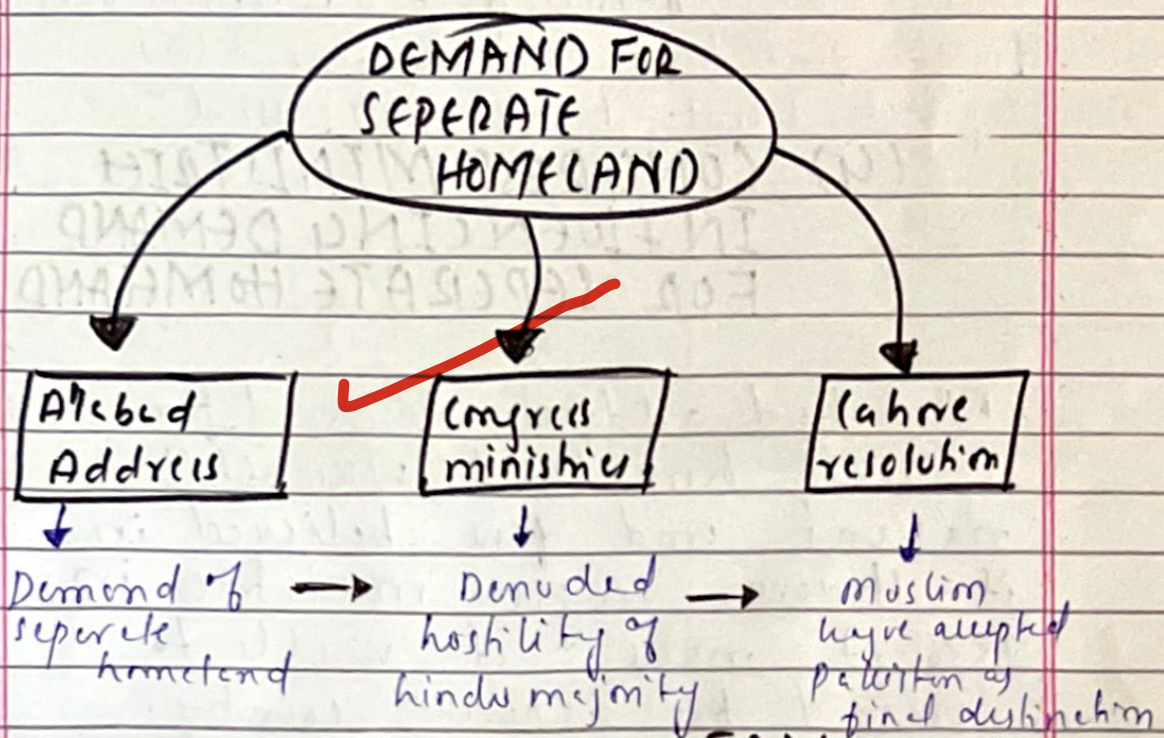
This address provided a dream; it was for the first time that discussion about separate homeland was discussed.

### (4) CONGRESS MINISTRIES INFLUENCING DEMAND FOR SEPARATE HOMELAND

All India Muslim League's demand for separate homeland was still nascent and few believed in it. However, Congress ministries in 1936-37 made it viable to demand for separate country. The ministries were hostile against Muslims of subcontinent. Communalism, was made compulsory, Muslims were discriminated for public jobs, and Hindu culture was being taught. This solidified the need for Pakistan, a separate homeland.

## (5) LAHORE RESOLUTION INFLUENCING DEMAND FOR SEPERATE HOMELAND

Laure resolution of 1940 paved the final nail. It made it clear that no solution ~~to~~ will be acceptable to muslims of subcontinent that does not recognize the right of muslims ~~at~~ ~~by~~ of seperate homeland. It was later named Pakistan resolution



## (6) CONCLUSION

Two-nation theory and Islam based politico-socio-religious theory for non-pakistan movement (1930-1947), while the demand for seperate homeland evolved through Allhed address, congress minishies and laure resolution