

TOPIC 25

Early years 1947 to 1958:

Liaquat Ali Khan's contributions to the struggle for independence were numerous. After independence, he was thus the natural choice for the premiership. Liaquat Ali Khan was appointed as the first Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Being the first Prime Minister of the country, Liaquat Ali Khan had to deal with a number of difficulties that Pakistan faced in its early days. He helped Quaid-i-Azam in solving the riots and refugee problem and in setting up an effective administrative system for the country. He established the groundwork for Pakistan's foreign policy. He also took steps towards the formulation of the constitution. He presented The **Objectives Resolution**, a prelude to future constitutions, in the Legislative Assembly. The house passed it on March 12, 1949. It is considered to be the "Magna Carta" in Pakistan's constitutional history. Liaquat Ali Khan called it "the most important occasion in the life of this country, next in importance, only to the achievement of independence". Under his leadership a team also drafted the first report of the Basic Principle Committee and work began on the second report.

During his tenure, India and Pakistan agreed to resolve the dispute of Kashmir in a peaceful manner through the efforts of the United Nations. According to this agreement a ceasefire was affected in Kashmir in January 1948. It was decided that a free and impartial plebiscite would be held under the supervision of the UN.

After the death of Quaid-i-Azam, he tried to fill the vacuum created by the departure of the Father of the Nation. The problem of religious minorities flared during late 1949 and early 1950, and it seemed as if India and Pakistan were about to fight their second war in the first three years of their independence. At this critical moment in the history of South Asia, Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan met Nehru to sign the **Liaquat-Nehru Pact in 1950**. The Liaquat-Nehru Pact was an effort on his part to improve relations and reduce tension between India and Pakistan. In May 1951, he **visited the United States** and set the course of Pakistan's foreign policy towards closer ties with the West. An important event during his premiership was the establishment of **National Bank of Pakistan** in November 1949, and the installation of a paper currency mill in Karachi.

Liaquat Ali Khan was unfortunately assassinated on **October 16, 1951**. Security forces immediately shot the assassin, who was later identified as **Saad Akbar**. The question of who was behind his murder is yet to be answered. The government officially gave Liaquat Ali Khan the title of **Shaheed-i-Millat**.

Khawaja Nazimuddin

After Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947, **Nazimuddin** was appointed the first Chief Minister of the Province of East Bengal. When the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah died on September 11, 1948, Nazimuddin was appointed as the second Governor General of Pakistan and later on after the assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan Nazimuddin became the second Prime Minister of Pakistan. Malik Ghulam Mohammad took the office of G.G. The movement for **Tahaffuz-i-Khatam-i-Nabuwat** and the worsening food condition in Punjab caused a lot of trouble for Khawaja Nazimuddin and this led to his dismissal on 17 April 1953.

After the dismissal of Khawaja Nazimuddin, the **Governor General Malik Ghulam Mohammad** appointed **Muhammad Ali Bogra**, from East Pakistan, as the Prime Minister.

Malik Ghulam Mohammad was forced to retire from the post of Governor General due to his failing health and **Major General Iskander Mirza**, the Minister of Interior, took over the office. Although the expulsion of

Ghulam Muhammad from power seemed necessary, yet his successor, Iskander Mirza proved to be a greater menace for the country.

It was during the tenure of Muhammad Ali Bogra that Pakistan joined **C. E. N. T. O.** and **S. E. A. T. O.** Governor General also dismissed Muhammad Ali Bogra on August 8, 1955.

Bogra's constitutional proposal, known as the **Bogra Formula**, was presented before the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on October 7, 1953. The plan proposed for a Bicameral Legislature with equal representation for all the five provinces of the country in the Upper House. A total of 50 seats were reserved for the Upper House. The 300 seats for the Lower House were to be allocated to the provinces on the basis of proportionate representation.

Chaudhry Muhammad Ali was appointed as the new Prime Minister on August 11, 1955. But soon Chaudhry Muhammad Ali had to resign as a Prime Minister under unfavourable political circumstances on September 8, 1956, it was during his tenure that Chaudhry Muhammad Ali presented the 1956 Constitution and **Iskander Mirza** was elected the first President of Pakistan.

He was sworn-in as the **first President** under the 1956 Constitution. During his regime not only was the first Constitution of Pakistan finalized, but also all the provinces and princely states of West Pakistan were knitted together to form **One Unit** of the West Pakistan Province.

During his tenure from 1956 to 1958, President **Iskander Mirza** brought about various cabinet changes and advocated a controlled democracy for Pakistan. **Muhammad Ali Bogra** was the first Prime Minister under Iskander Mirza. Bogra could not stay at this position for long; he resigned and went back to the U. S. A. where he was reinstated as the Ambassador of Pakistan. After Bogra, **Chaudhry Muhammad Ali** became the next Prime Minister. It was under his premiership that the establishment of One Unit was given practical shape and the Constitution of 1956 was introduced. **Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, I. I. Chundrigar and Malik Feroz Khan Noon** succeeded him as Prime Ministers under Iskander Mirza's despotic rule.

Due to severe political instability and continuous replacing of premierships, President Iskander Mirza turned towards General Ayub Khan, the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of Pakistan. At midnight between October 7 and 8, 1958, the President of Pakistan abrogated the Constitution and imposed Martial Law in the country. This brought an end to the term of Malik Feroz Khan Noon, which lasted for less than a year. The Parliamentary Government came to an end in Pakistan, thus setting the stage for the recurrence of Martial Law again and again in the future.

In collusion with the Commander-in-Chief, Muhammad Ayub Khan, Iskander Mirza abrogated the Constitution on October 7, 1958 and declared Martial Law. Iskander Mirza and Ayub Khan began the new era with apparent unanimity. Although the two were responsible for bringing about the change, they had different views on dealing with the new situation. Share of power soon led to a struggle between the two, which ended with Iskander Mirza being arrested and exiled to Britain where he later died.

OBJECTIVE RESOLUTION 1949:

On March 12, 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted a resolution moved by Liaquat Ali Khan, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan. It was called the Objectives Resolution. It proclaimed that the future constitution of Pakistan would not be modelled on European pattern, but on the ideology and democratic faith of Islam.

The Objectives Resolution, proclaimed the following principles:

1. Sovereignty belongs to Allah alone.
2. The State shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people.
3. The principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam, shall be fully observed.
4. Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accordance with the teachings of Islam as set out in the Holy Quran and Sunnah.
5. Adequate provision shall be made for the minorities to freely profess and practice their religions and develop their cultures.
6. Pakistan shall be a federation.
7. Fundamental rights shall be guaranteed.
8. Judiciary shall be independent.

The Objectives Resolution is one of the most important and illuminating documents in the constitutional history of Pakistan. The importance of this document lies in the fact that it combines the good features of Western and Islamic democracy. It is a happy blend of modernism and Islam.

Public and Representative Officer's disqualification Act (PRODA):

- It was an act for debarring of a government officer from public office for a suitable period of time if he is judicially found guilty of misconduct in public office or any representative capacity in any matter.
- By this Act complaints could be made to the G.G or provincial Governors who could order an enquiry by judges.
- Anyone found guilty under PRODA was debarred from office.
- The law was designed to eliminate corruption.

One unit policy:

- In November 1954, M. Ali Bogra had proposed that the 4 provinces and 10 princely states within Pakistan should be joined together to form West Pakistan.
- On 5th Oct 1955 Mirza Ghulam Mohammad passed an order unifying all of West Pakistan in what became known as One Unit Scheme.

M.Ali Bogra said: *"There will be no Bengalis, no Punjabis, no Sindhis, no Pathans, no Balochis, no Bahawalpuris, and no Khairpuris. The disappearance of these groups will strengthen the integrity of Pakistan".*

Q. 1: why was it so difficult to agree on a new constitution in 1950? Nov. 2011 Q. 4 b

Q.2: Describe the constitutional crises of 1954-55. June 2012 Q. 4 a