

A Brief History and Role of Political Parties in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan is a federation where a large number of political, religious and ethnic parties remained energetic in the political history. After the partition of United India, the All India Muslim League was also divided and in Pakistan it was renamed as the Pakistan Muslim League. With the passage of time, the new parties were created by the political leaders and due to its response, Pakistan enjoyed multi-party system within a decade. All the parties had been presenting their attractive manifestos during the election campaigns; however, the party leaders always neglected the public issues after winning or trailing the elections. It is a matter of concern that Pakistan had to bear almost 35 years of Martial Law. On the other hand, the civilian rule could not prove beneficial for the people of Pakistan. The main fault of the political parties is that they never owned the common people after getting the power. In response to the General Elections of 2018, the PTI was awarded the mandate to govern the country. After a long time, a third party came in power in

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Pakistan. In this article, the researchers had tried to cover the history and role of famous political parties of Pakistan.

Politics, State and Democracy

The word 'politics' means the activities associated with the governance of a country or area. The debates between powerful parties aimed at improving someone's status or increasing power within organization.¹ The term "politics" is derived from the Greek word "Polis" which means the city state. According to the Greek philosophers, politics remained a subject which deals with all the activities and affairs of the city states.² The society thus organized is called state, the rules which determine social conduct are the laws of the state, and the individual who enforces the law and see that, they are equally observed by all, constituted its government.³

It is the city state of Athens that merits attention. The Athens was the centre of culture and education. It retained its unique position for centuries subsequent to its defeat and decline. The individuals lived in equality and rejected autocracy. Athens, which for a brief history was able to enjoy the fruit of democracy, is more rewarding subject than Sparta which lived in comfortless life of barracks.⁴

The state is composed of four essential elements or attributes. Two of them are the physical basis and other two are political or spiritual basis of states i.e. population and land or territory are considered as the physical basis of state while government and sovereignty are political or spiritual basis of the state.⁵

1 Oxford Dictionary on lexico.com/definition/politics. Accessed January 02, 2020.

2 www.maCollege.in/app/webroot/uploads/department-materials/doc-460.pdf. Accessed January 02, 2019.

3 A. C. Kapur, *Principles of Political Science* (Delhi: S. Chand and Company (Pvt.) Ltd., 1987).

4 M. Judd Harmon, *Political Thoughts from Plato to Present* (New York: McGraw Hill Book Company, Utah University, 1964).

5 Kapur, *Principles of Political Science*.

Legitimization and Natural Development of a Political Party

Of course, in a given society, the groups like tribes, ethnic groups, religious bodies and class-based organization may lead to parties. Indeed, where the development is natural, it is probable, that more than one group will be able to place legitimate party.

Tribal or Cliental Parties: The tribal or cliental social base produces the political parties when their leaders are obliged to come to some understanding or coalition or on the contrary fight each other in the context of a modern political system. Man based allegiance compels the authority of his action.

Territory based allegiance takes the form of region.

1. **Ethnic Parties:** An ethnic group gives rise to political parties longer than tribal organizations, either indirectly and takes the form of federation in a society.
2. **Religious Parties:** Religions are likely “to produce a political party. But it depends on church/religious structure and on the size of religious organization e.g. Roman Catholic, Muslim parties or Jewish parties.”
3. **Class Based Parties:** These parties are supported by the trade union movement e.g. labour or socialist parties in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.⁶

Role/ Function of Political Parties

The role of political parties is essential to every state, whether it is democratic or dictatorial, we know that even in dictatorship in Fascist and Communist dictatorship the party is supreme organ of the state. In communist states like erstwhile USSR, the party leadership, organization and party caucus determine the government. It is superior to army and other institutions in the country. So, it is not only in democracy but in every system a political party is essential. Without a party we cannot channelize, generate the

⁶ Fean Blondal, *An Introduction to Comparative Governments*, (Islamabad: National Book Foundation, 1972).

atmosphere, the loyalties and the emotion of the people with an active party organization.⁷

For a successful democracy the role of political parties is very essential e.g. a political party has or may keep a specific role in this context. The first function of a political party is to organize myriads of opinion by educating the people. Every party selects that issue which is of fundamental importance or is likely to appeal to the voters. It then formulates its own views, policies and programme about it and popularizes itself among the voters by means of press, platforms and other means of propaganda, and explains it to the people. At the same time another party put before them their own views, policies and thus enables them to judge these issues by themselves. In this way, they bring order out of chaos of opinion and views. A disorganized mass of people can neither formulate principles nor agree on policy. Thus, political parties play the function of organizing the public opinion and express the will of the people or the general will.⁸

A political party can supply majority for the government, without which government cannot remain in power. If there are no parties, the members of legislature will be completely disorganized, and form only a mass of men voting one way today and another way tomorrow: the government could not be sure how long it could stay in power. There would be consequently no stability and no power to plan a coherent policy at national or international level. In fact, it would be difficult to form a government, under such chaotic condition. Party holds the representatives together, subjecting them to the party whip and party discipline. The legislature cannot work smoothly without party whip, and it is necessary for party's solidarity, and for carrying out a coherent policy or program.⁹

7 Z. A. Bhutto, *Reshaping Foreign Policy: A Collection of Article & Speeches* (Lahore: Nafees Printing Press, 1962)

8 Mazhar-ul Haq, *Principles of Political Science* (Lahore: Bookland, 2008).

9 Kapur, *Principles of Political Science*.

At the time of elections, the political parties select the candidates for election, to plan, organize and run campaign, and to win them by winning of votes for their own candidates. As elections are expensive and some candidates cannot run and bear the expenses, the party tolerates the election expenses of such candidate from the party funds, contributed by its members and supporters. Similarly, the party can acquaint or aware the voters about the merits of their own candidates and demerits of opponent party's candidates.¹⁰ One of the recent examples may be taken from Pakistan where the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) hesitated to announce the date of elections to formulate the governments in two provinces of KP and Punjab. Dr. Arif Alvi, the President of Pakistan, announced the date of elections but all in vain. At last, the Supreme Court had to take *Suo Motu* action in this regard and issued a decision on the 1st March 2023 to hold the elections in KP and Punjab within 90 days.¹¹

Moreover, the primary aim of the political party is to obtain the control of the government by peaceful and constitutional method of winning election. The party which wins the majority in elections becomes the ruling party. For this purpose, the party announces their party programmes on the eve of general elections, select their candidates and launch election campaign and make a nation-wide agenda. They work in all corners of the country and keep the nation politically awake. The majority party takes the power and puts its party programmes in practice and makes new laws or replaces the old ones which are not in harmony with its program or policy.¹²

10 Robert Rienow, *Introduction to Government* (USA: AL fried, 1952).

11 Supreme Court of Pakistan, *Suo Motu Case No. 1 of 2023*, (*Suo Motu Regarding Holding of General Elections to the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and KP*) and Const. Petition No.1 of 2023 and Const. Petition No.2 of 2023.

12 S.M. Shahid, *Comparative and Developmental Politics* (Lahore: Ever New Book Palace, 2005)

After winning the elections, the successful parties form the government with the support of majority within the legislature. Parties enact legislation in pursuance of the goal demarcated in party manifesto. Similarly, an effective public policy is executed which is in line with the party policy. On the other hand, those parties who lose the elections perform the useful role of the oppositions. It is worth noting that the presence of an effective opposition that can keep the government on pathway, ensure successful democracy. It acts as a spokesman of popular demand and blocks the way of all autocratic trends on the part of government. It also provides successful information to the government for decision making.¹³

The important function of a political party is to hold its members together in legislature, especially in parliamentary system. In which the majority party in the legislature also forms the cabinet. If it is to remain, the ruling party and preserves its power, it must remain a majority party in the legislature. Hence, the party organization is strict and party discipline and solidarity is rigid. The party is, therefore, a unifying agency between the executive and legislative department of the government.¹⁴

Political parties provide opportunities for the people of the country to carry out organized political struggle through which individuals learn to cooperate with each other in order to achieve a desired lineage. And in order to achieve this, they organize the collective life by accepting disciplinary restrictions.¹⁵ Political parties play an important role in the political training of the people. Before and during the elections, they interact extensively with the people and acquaint them with national affairs. Thus these parties become an effective means of political training of the people. In addition to it, the party provides alternative team to run the

13 Muhammad Sarwar, *Introduction to Political Science* (Lahore: Ilmi Kitab Khana, 1998).

14 Haq, *Theory of Political Science*.

15 Muhammad Amin Javaid, *Taruf-i-Madaniyat* (Lahore: Iwan-i-Adab, 1995).

government, and prevent the same people remaining in power too long and looking on an office as a matter of right. A party guarantees to the electorate that changes in government can be affected if they wish it. It is always wholesome to know that no one is indispensable in politics and anyone may be replaced anytime. A party system always reminds the rulers that the ultimate appeal rests with the people, and they must remember these, to whom they will have to account in the future, as well as those who entrusted them with power.¹⁶

The First Muslim Political Organization: All India Muslim League (AIML)

The Muslims' attitude toward politics and political organization in the second half of 19th Century was determined by few individuals. The most important of whom was Sir Sayed Ahmad Khan, and the establishment of M.A.O. (Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental) College was the great step, he took in this direction to influence the Muslims of South Asia.¹⁷

Sayed Ameer Ali, a retired judge of high court, and Sir Sayed Ahmad Khan had statesman like vision in realizing that, only through modern education could their community be rescued, from the trammels of backwardness. With their pioneering zeal, the Muslims within a few decades achieved considerable progress in every branch of European learning.¹⁸

In December 1906, the Muslim leaders from all parts of India assembled to attend the All Indian-Mohammaddan Education Conference at Dacca, in which the central political organization for the Muslims was achieved. Eventually, a public meeting of the Muslim leaders was held on December

16 Kapur, *Principles of Political Science*.

17 Rafique Afzal, *Political Parties in Pakistan*, Vol II (Islamabad: NIHCR, 1976).

18 V. B. Kulkarni, *Pakistan: Its Origin and Relation with Indian* (Lahore: Sterling Publisher Private Ltd., 1988).

30, 1906, presided by Nawab Viqar-ul-Mulk on the motion of SalemUllah Khan. It was decided that a political association be formed styled "All Indian National Congress" for the furtherance of the following objectives:¹⁹

1. To promote among Indian Muslims, feeling of loyalty towards the British government.
2. To protect their political and other rights of Indian Muslims.
3. To present their needs and aspirations before the government in temperate language.

The political role of the All India's Muslim League 1906-47 in the politics of the sub-continent is divided into two periods i.e. first period from 1906-to-1940 and second from 1940-to-1947.

In the first period, the politics of All India's Muslim League was revolved around the protection of Muslim rights in India and to present Muslims demands in a better way. While, in the second period the whole activities of Muslim League were, the partition of India and establishment of Pakistan ultimately achieved in August 1947.²⁰

Party Politics in Pakistan 1947-2018

The establishment of Pakistan in 1947 can be viewed as the culmination of the multi-phased struggle of the Muslims of sub-continent to find an adjustment to a situation arising after British withdrawal. The movement for separate homeland was organized by Muslim League. There were other political parties which supported or opposed the demand of All India Muslim League.²¹ With the creation of Pakistan in 1947, the All India Muslim League assumed the power in the new state; Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

19 Sharif din Pir Zada, *Foundation of Pakistan; All India Muslim League Document 1906-47*, Vol. 1 (Lahore: National Publishing Housing Ltd., Motihal Commercial Area, 1969).

20 Naushad Khan, *Pakistan: Past, Present and Future* (Peshawar: Islamia Book Agency, 2010).

21 Rafique Afzal, *Political Parties in Pakistan 1947-58*, Vol. I (Islamabad: NIHCR, 1986).

became the first Governor General and Liaquat Ali Khan, the general secretary and deputy leader of the League's parliamentary party, formed the ministry.²² For seven years, Muslim League continuously enjoyed the power in all provinces as well as in centre. It enjoyed the monopoly of power, in every sense and shape, not only in legislative and ministerial spheres but also in provincial goober national and high diplomatic field. For seven years, it ruled the country without any opposition, to question its policies and without any general question to test its popularity.²³

Due to the failure of political parties, the first Martial Law was declared on 7 October 1958. The President abrogated the constitution and dissolved the assemblies, after two weeks Muhammad Ayub Khan forcefully retired President Isikandar Mirza. Muhammad Ayub Khan became the Chief Martial Law Administrator and supreme-commander of the armed forces. In 1969, General Agha Muhammad Yahya Khan succeeded Ayub Khan. From 1947-58, there was no general election and from 1958-68, two indirect elections were held.²⁴

The First General Elections in Pakistan were held in 1970, in which the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) emerged and got majority in the West Pakistan while the Awami League cleaned sweep in East Pakistan led by Z. A. Bhutto and Sheikh Mujeeb, respectively. The transfer of power was delayed deliberately which was not acceptable to the Awami League and the situation went towards crises. At last, the circumstances moved towards the separation of East Pakistan. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took the office of Prime Minister of remaining Pakistan and he restored the parliamentary form of government. He established national and provincial

22 Afzal, *Political Parties in Pakistan 1958-69*, Vol. II.

23 K. K. Aziz, *The Making of Pakistan: A Study in Nationalism* (Lahore: Sang-e-Meel Publications, 1967).

24 Sanjay Dutt, *Inside Pakistan, 52 Year Outlook* (New Dehli: A.P.H. Publishing Corporation, 2000).

assemblies elected for 5 years directly.²⁵ He achieved the credit to provide an agreed Constitution of Pakistan 1973; organizing the Islamic Summit (1974) at Lahore; founded the nuclear technology in the country.

In 1977, the National Elections were held in the country, in which the PPP faced a strong political party alliance i.e. the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA). The PPP won the majority and the PNA secured only 36 seats. The opposition party claimed that election was rigged and began agitation against the government. The army was called for restoration of law and order in the country. The Army Chief General Zia-ul-Haq seized the reign of the government and declared Martial Law which was ended in 1988 with his death.²⁶ During his tenure, General Zia-ul-Haq screwed general elections and went for holding elections on non-party basis in 1985.²⁷ Then Benazir Bhutto became the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1988 elections leading the Pakistan Peoples Party. Unfortunately, her government was dismissed in 1990 on charges of corruption.²⁸

In response to the General Elections held in 1990, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif became the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He could not stabilise the government and was dismissed by the President under the Article 58-2(B) of the Constitution. However, the people of Pakistan had no chance to vote any other prominent party as the political system of the country had become two-party system in real practice. That was why, Benazir and Nawaz-Sharif became prime ministers in 1993 and 1996, respectively while no one of them was able to complete the tenure and both were dismissed by the president. In 1999, General Pervaiz Musharraf imposed Martial Law and dismissed Nawaz Sharif

25 Khalid Bhatti, *Pakistan Independence: 60 Years of Shatter Dream*, 2007 Available at: <http://www.socialismtoday.org>. Accessed on October 25, 2020.

26 Ilhan Niaz, *History of Pakistan* (1947-2018), www.academia.org/paper/pk.

27 Sheikh Nadeem Ahmad & Sajida Begum, "Historical Perspective of Political and Constitutional Development in Pakistan," *Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences* 20, no. 2 (2015).

28 Niaz, *History of Pakistan*.

government. During his regime, General Elections were held in the country and pro-Musharraf party the PML (Q) formed the government. General Musharraf ruled the country till 2008.²⁹

In 2008, once again General Elections were held and the PPP got majority while Yousaf Raza Gilani enjoyed the premiership under the presidentship of Asif Ali Zardari. Zardari proved himself a sensible leader; he adopted the policy of reconciliation with the opponents and founded the real democratic practice in the country. Many of the principal actors were the same as in 1990 and challenge was to perpetuate itself for power for the next five years. Zardari would prove the ultimate survivor and Pakistan first democratic transition from one elected government to another.

The PML (N) became the majority party in May 2013 after winning the General Elections. However, important aspects of these elections as compared to the General Elections 2008 was the voter turn-out i.e. 44 percent to 55 percent which indicated that the PTI succeeded to mobilize new voters in elections held in 2013. The PTI did well in elections as it gathered good number of seats at centre and sat on the opposition benches. The PTI formed government at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the Jammāt-i-Islami and Qaumi Watan Party as coalition partners. The PTI performed well at provincial level, which paved the way for next term in 2018. In response to the elections held in 2018, the PTI secured 116 seats and formed government at the Centre. The PTI also succeeded to form government in KP, Punjab and Baluchistan with coalition partners.³⁰ With the elections in 2018, Pakistan marked a decade of electoral democracy and

29 Hamid Khan, *Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan* (Islamabad: Oxford University Press, 2009).

30 Shaista Taj and Zia-Ur-Rehman, "Role of Political Parties in Pakistan and Perverted Form of Democracy," *The Dialogue* 4 (2013).

Imran Khan became Prime Minister with the slogan of *Naya Pakistan*.³¹

Features of Party System in Pakistan

The political system can be judged by the nature of its political parties. So, the general features of Pakistan political parties are; in the Pakistan's political parties, only a few have the right to make decisions. Those who lead the party are the result of the individualism that had taken hold in the form of a creed. In general, a political party had a constitution that is considered democratic but it is not followed. The ordinary member is not given a place when making a decision. The leading members of the party have the right to impose their decisions. The workers have to accept and follow the orders of the party leader. The mainstream of common people is emotional and devoted to the party leadership. In case of death of the party leader, his daughter, brother or near relative takes his place and there is no space for the outsider of the family.

Most political parties have a nominal organizational structure. Only during the elections, the political parties mobilize and open offices that close after the elections. As far as regular membership is concerned, no party can claim to be a truly special organization. The campaign run by the parties is not carried out in an orderly manner. However, some political parties have focused on the organization, such as the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Awami National Party. These organizations remain active during the elections' campaign.

Most of our political parties do not give much importance to their manifesto or programme. Most political parties are always ready to compromise with other political parties, keeping their principles at bay. These are so careless with their manifesto that after coming to power, they feel no

31 Hurmat Majid, "The Care-taker Government," www.dawn.com/news/1409090/04, 2018. Accessed on February, 2020.

shame in adopting policies that they had already strongly opposed.³²

Due to the multi-party system of government, the practice of forming political alliances had become common in Pakistan. These blocks are set up to win elections and achievement of the other goals. But this kind of unity among political parties does not last long. There is no long ideology in the unity of the political parties. The Combined Opposition Parties (COP) under Miss Fatima Jinnah was formed in Ayub era. There was no ideology behind this alliance but the sole aim behind it was to defeat Ayub Khan.³³ Similarly, the alliance against the Bhutto government was formed by nine parties. It was called the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA). Other famous alliances amongst the political parties in Pakistan include: the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and the Islami Jamhuri Ittihad (IJI). The objectives of these alliances were to accumulate voter's power, launch a movement against the party in power, and to exploit the situation to topple the single majority party.³⁴

The system of democracy itself requires that the people hold their representatives accountable. The source of power must be the people if they use their political power in elections with complete honesty and wisdom. Due to its impact, the people belonging to civil society can come into politics and power. The process of accountability is nominal in the country while the political parties adopt the policy of reconciliation in the accountability.

Pakistan's political parties are based on one ideology or another. Some of them have religious ideologies and some believe in political ideologies. There are almost three types of ideological parties in Pakistan. One type of parties is the Islamist party which want to impose Islam in the country. It

32 Bahauddin Nazar, *Pakistani Idaray* (Lahore: Azeem Book Depot, 1985).

33 Zaharul Islam Choudhury, *Extra Constitutional Action in Pakistan* (Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, University of London, 1972).

34 Raza Mehdi, *Pakistan Today* (Lahore: Zaildar Park Ichra, 1987).

includes the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam and other groups. Some parties want to keep their politics separate from religion.³⁵

In Pakistan, the political parties did disclose their resources of funds and it is difficult to comment upon the problems of party finance. Its Implication for party structure is a fair guess that much more money is collected at the centre than at district level with the result that the party is tended to be centralized more money donated by industrialist and landlord than by common member which made the party more subsequent to its wealthy person and more divorced from its own rank and file.³⁶

Regional political parties are common phenomenon of Pakistani politics e.g. the Red-shirt want autonomous Pakhtunistan; some Baloch leaders aspired for autonomous Balochistan and a number of Sindhi politicians looked to Sindh as a national homeland and similar feelings can be felt in the PML at Punjab. This regional rivalry was accentuated and aggregated by absence of a national countrywide political organization.³⁷ Many of the political governments failed to consolidate their political power. They are removed by military elites or presidents by imposing article 58(2b).³⁸

The Table 1 shows the breakdown of the political system.

Table: BREAKDOWN OF POLITICAL SYSTEM 1947-1999.

Year	Parties in Government	Breakdown
1958	Pakistan Muslim League	Military take over
1969	PML (Convention)	--do--
1977	PPP	--do--
1988	PML (Junejo)	Removed by 58 (2b)
1990	PPP	--do--
1993	PML (Nawaz)	Removed by President GIK by 58(2b)
1986	PPP	--do--
1999	PML N	Military takeover

35 M. Osman, *Political Parties in Pakistan* (Lahore: Masood Asher, 1990).

36 Aziz, *The Making of Pakistan*.

37 Aziz, *The Making of Pakistan*.

38 Lawrence Ziring, *Pakistan in 20th Century: A Political History* (Karachi: Oxford University Press, 1997).

This intervention negatively contributed to the political development and political system of Pakistan.³⁹

Major Political Parties in Pakistan

Pakistan has a multi-party democracy, there were 126 political parties registered with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).⁴⁰ In these political parties, the PPP, the PML(N) and now the PTI are major parties enjoying public support in all the four provinces along with the ANP and the MQM at regional levels and are minor parties.

Pakistan Peoples' Party

The PPP was founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Lahore in 1967, with popular party slogans as 'Islam is our faith, 'democracy is our political system', and 'socialism is our economy' and 'people are the real source of power'. Z. A. Bhutto was elected as the first chairman contesting election with slogan as *Roti, Kapra aur Makan* [Urdu: bread, clothes and shelter]. In the 1970 elections, the PPP became the majority party in the West Pakistan, ruled till 1977 and then removed by military dictator Zia-ul-Haq. After the death of General Zia-ul-Haq, Benazir activated the party. She won the elections in 1988 and became Prime Minister but her government was removed on corruption charges in 1990. She came into power once again in 1993 but soon was removed due to uncertain conditions of law and order in Sindh especially in Karachi. In this reign of Benazir Bhutto, her real brother Murtaza Bhutto raised voice against her sister Benazir Bhutto and her husband Asif Ali Zardari. On September 20, 1996 Murtaza Bhutto was killed in a police encounter at Clifton, Karachi near his home. She was removed from her office due to most horrible situation of law and order and uncontrolled corruption. After the assassination of Benazir Bhutto in December 2007, Asif Ali Zardari took charge of the party and the Pakistan Peoples'

39 Ahmad & Begum, "Historical Perspective of Political and Constitutional Development in Pakistan,".

40 See, Election Commission of Pakistan, 2019.

Party came into power for the 3rd time during 2008-2013. It was the first time after the death of General Zia-ul-Haq that a democratic government enjoyed the full-tenure rule for the period of five years. Now the government transformed the political infrastructure by establishing provincial autonomy through the 18th amendment.⁴¹

Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)

The PML (N) was a legate of the All India Muslim League in British India and was divided into a dozen factions bearing various names indicating factional leaders. They formed their governments in 1990-1993, 1996-1999 and in 2013-2018. In 1963, Ayub was elected as the chairman of Convention Muslim League, the ruling party; this was the part of Muslim League in the hands of a dictator. During Zia-ul-Haq era, non-party based elections were held in 1985. Muhammad Khan Junejo became Prime Minister of the country. When the political system developed, the house was divided into two groups, i.e. government and opposition. Later on, the name Pakistan Muslim League (Junejo) was given to the government, dismissed by Zia. The Muslim League was divided into the PML (J) and the PML (N) groups. During Musharraf regime, the PML became as PML (Q), got majority and formed government in 2002.⁴²

Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf (PTI)

The Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf (PTI) was formed in 1996 at Lahore. It won the first seat in elections held in 2002. The PTI boycotted and did not participate in the elections of 2008. The party was organized by Imran Khan step by step. However, in the elections of 2013, the Muslim League (N) received 7.5 million votes. These General Elections were held on time and was the continuation of democratic process. On the other hand, in the same elections, the PTI gained a good number of seats at center and sat on the opposition benches. Moreover, the PTI formed her

41 Available at www.ppp.com.web.

42 Available at www.pmln.web/pk.

government at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with collaboration of the Jammat-i-Islami and Qaumi Watan Party. The Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf performed well at provincial level which paved the way for result in next elections held in 2018. After the leakage of Panama Papers, the Muslim Leagues was displaced from the hearts of public while this time the people of Pakistan wanted to try Imran Khan. As the political situation was in favour of PTI and the party secured 116 seats at National Assembly. The PTI was able to form the government at the centre and Imran Khan took the office of Premiership. The Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf also founded the governments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Balochistan with coalition partners.⁴³

Minor Parties of Pakistan

The Minor political parties included all those groups except the PPP, the PML (N), and the PTI who remained in government at national level. There are a number of small parties in the country which include the Jamat-i-Islami, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, Awami National Party, Pak Sar Zameen Party, Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Qaumi Watan Party, Grand Democratic Alliance, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, Jamhoori Watan Party, Balochistan Awami Party, Balochistan National Party and Awami Muslim League Pakistan. Almost all of these parties represent a large number of followers in the public meetings, however, during the Elections these parties could not avail the worth mentioning seats at national level. On the other hand, these parties won some seats from the provincial assemblies in the country.

Conclusion

Pakistan is an Islamic state founded in response to the partition of United India in 1947. The country took start as one party system and gradually become multi-party system because of fundamental cleavage in social structure, differences in religion, culture and classes. The All India

43 Available at www.pti.web/pk

Muslim League now became Pakistan Muslim League in Pakistan and ruled over the country. It was the unfortunate of the Pakistani citizens that the single national political party of the state could not solve a single issue of the nation while the people of Pakistan had a great hope from the Pakistan Muslim League. There were many reasons of the failure of Muslim League including the untimely death of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the lack of practice to govern a large area of the state, the multi-cultural and multi-religious environment of the state, the corruption of the political leaders, and involvement of military bureaucracy in the politics. However, the most important issue faced by the country in the field of politics was that the Punjabi political leaders took over the Pakistan Muslim League and the Bengali political leaders were overthrown in reality.

In Pakistan, political parties almost remained fail to understand the real issues of Pakistani society. They did not focus on the troubles of common people at all. The Pakistan Muslim League's rule was not found to be satisfying since the initial days of Pakistan. In response to it, a large number of parties were founded by the political, religious and social leaders all over the country. The most important point is that the real political struggle was launched in the Eastern Bengal in 1906. This was the same Bengal where the All India Muslim League was founded for the protection of South Asian Muslims but now the politicians of East Pakistan had been looking for the rights of Bengalis instead of the Pakistanis. The political and religious leaders from the West Pakistan also came out against the Pakistan Muslim League due to her unsatisfactory performance. After the dismemberment of Pakistan (1971), the Pakistan Peoples Party represented the people of remaining Pakistan as well but after the downfall of Z. A. Bhutto, Pakistan became the state of martial rule once again. After the death of General Zia-ul-Haq, the democracy was restored but the rights of Pakistani citizens could not restore in real sense. The Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League (N) interchangeably ruled the country allegedly doing nothing

tangible for the welfare of the people of Pakistan. In this situation, the public was looking towards a third party. The Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf (PTI) announced a charismatic manifesto for the General Elections of 2018. The people of Pakistan tested PTI and the party founded the government under the premiership of Imran Khan. During initial three years of the government, the PTI remained unable to solve the issues of common people. Eventually, Imran Khan became the first Prime Minister of Pakistan who was ousted from power through constitutional means i.e. losing the vote of confidence in the National Assembly of Pakistan on April 9, 2022, with the efforts of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM).