

# ***Pakistan People's Party: Under Leadership of Z.A. Bhutto***

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## **ABSTRACT**

*In different countries, there is a different form of governments. There may be a single-party or multi-party government in the country. Dominant political parties make their government in the state. In the case of Pakistan, it experienced a different form of government. It experienced both military dictatorship and a democratic form of government. Pakistan people's party is considered the most popular party in the country. Within three years of its foundation 1967 to 1970, it got remarkable significance. It became the ruling party of the state under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Pakistan experienced its first civilian government under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto after the separation of East Pakistan. This paper is going to explore the renowned political party of Pakistan, "Pakistan People's Party". In this paper, an attempt is made to scrutinize the foundation principle and working of PPP, and its role in the government during its initial phase.*

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## **Introduction**

An organized group of people with their distinctive ideology gathered at the same platform, form a political party. Their ideology defines the goals of the party. The manifesto of the party gives a clear vision of its agenda to the party. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the charismatic leader, and the most controversial figure in the political history of Pakistan led the foundation of this political party known as the Pakistan People's party. After resigning from the Ayyub's government, Bhutto took a trip to the country to get the support of the masses to form his party. It was formally inaugurated in Lahore in November 1967. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was elected as the first chairman of the party. Bhutto provides the nucleus to the party. The manifesto of the party sets out by Z. A. Bhutto was the establishment of a Socialist society. He mobilized the citizens of Pakistan through his ideology of Socialism. He raised the slogan of "Roti, Kapra, and Makan". The idea of a classless society attracted the rural and middle-class society of Pakistan who was succumbed to economic exploitation. Political modernization was also taking place among the citizen and they were seeking material gratification. Pakistan people's party gained the support of students, workers, laborers, and peasants. Most of the politicians who were banned under EBDO "Election Bodies Disqualifying Order" joined the anti-Ayyub ranks after the ban was lifted on first January 1967. The party can also be considered as the first opposition party as it stands against Ayyub's regime. Through the ideology of Socialism, Bhutto struggled to get power by constitutional means. Pakistan people's party emerged as the largest single party and mass party with the support of the masses. The basic principles of PPP were "Islam is our faith; Democracy is our polity; Socialism is our economy, and all power belongs to peoples".

## **Background**

In the discourse of history, every happening event in the past has multiple causes. The emergence of the Pakistan People's party also has different causes. The foremost

reason was the Bhutto's disenchantment with Ayyub Khan. The economic condition of Pakistan also made citizens raise voices against the government. The economy of Pakistan was concentrated in the hands of only 22 families and the poor were pleading for the necessities. During Ayyub's regime, Bhutto remained his foreign minister and has great prominence. The Tashkent Declaration in June 1966, after the war of 1965 with India, gave rise to the divergence between Ayyub and Bhutto. Bhutto considered it as a betrayal of the country and nation. So, Bhutto left Ayyub's cabinet on 30 November 1966. He visited East Pakistan in 1966 and supported the six-point formula of Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rehman. He wanted to bring down the regime of Ayyub Khan. For this purpose, he decided to launch a political party that has a clear vision of his ideology. Bhutto approached every corner of the country to deliver his political ideology throughout the country. He proposed the idea of application of the socialist idea for economic and social justice. In no time, Bhutto was able to get the support from masses because his political ideology addressed the difficulties of the common man. He got the sympathy of the public which enhanced the status of PPP. Under-deprived citizen of Pakistan became the supporter of Pakistan people's Party thus made it mass movement emerged against the government. Pakistan people's Party provided the leading role and strength to the mass uprising against Ayyub's government.

### **Basic principles and Party's manifesto**

A manifesto presents the goals and agenda of the party. It provides the framework to the party that a party when comes to power pledges to adopt it. Some basic principles on which the party came into existence were Islam, Democracy, and Socialism. Its aims and objectives were outlined in its first convention. Looking at the economic, political, and social conditions of Pakistan, Bhutto suggested the egalitarian structure of society. He made Socialism the main manifesto of his party. The party raised the slogan of "Roti, Kapra, aur Makan". The slogan indicates the necessities of life for the

poor class of society. The goal of the party was the establishment of democracy, and socialism to realize economic and social justice. It talked about the agrarian measures to abolish the exploitation of farmers by feudal. It was aimed to struggle against the military dictatorship. It promised the protection of interests of the peasantry, and equal rights to women. It also promised the independence of the judiciary, freedom of expression to the press, and the elimination of feudalism. These objectives captured the attraction of the deprived class of Pakistani society. The party defines its ideology as Socialism but transferred into Islamic Socialism and then Musawat-i-Muhammadi was employed by PPP leadership. It was done to counter the hostility of right-wing political parties. With this ideology, and basic principles party got mass attraction too swiftly.

### **The initial phase of PPP**

After the formation of the Pakistan People's party in 1967, within three years of its formation, it emerged as the single largest party after Awami League. It did not have the support of the political elite rather its member and supporter belonged to rural and middle-class society. PPP established its identity as a dissident group. Its main supporter was from Sindh and Punjab in West Pakistan. In the case of East Pakistan, the party could not gather any support. Bhutto also supported the six-point formula of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman. Within three years 1967 to 1970, the party was ready to contest the election with its massive support. Party contested the election of 1970 on a slogan of "Roti, Kapra Aur Makan" and it was successful in winning the elections. It won 81 seats in West Pakistan out of 138. After the separation of East Pakistan, the Pakistan people's party as a dominant party made its government under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Bhutto became the president of Pakistan in 1971 and the party remained in office from 1971 to 1977.

### **PPP's election Manifesto**

Manifesto of any party which is outlined during elections will be adopted by that party if it comes to power. The

elementary manifesto of PPP outlined by Bhutto was the establishment of democracy and a socialist system. The manifesto of the Pakistan People's Party was defined in its first convention as a lengthy document divided into six chapters. It includes foreign policy, economic policy, educational reforms, social, and administrative reforms as well. Despondent with Ayyub's Tashkent declaration, Bhutto declared that Pakistan should follow independent foreign policy. The economic policy will be according to principles of socialism, as the party promised to place the production of all wealth in the public sector, nationalization of different industries, and private banks to destroy the power of feudal landlords. It also promised to protect the rights of people including the growth of trade unionism, a system of minimum wage, the establishment of local self-government, protection of women's rights, freedom of expression to literature and news media, and health facilities for every citizen. In education, it was made free up to matric. These are some basic goals that were presented by Pakistan People's party.

### **Role of PPP after Election**

After the elections of 1970, Pakistan People's Party in West Pakistan became the dominant political party. In 1971 PPP made its government in Pakistan. Its initial years in office were most challenging. It was the time to fulfill the promises made by PPP at the time of the elections. Its supporters were looking forward to the betterment of life as promised by Bhutto. The application of Islamic Socialism and democracy. Bhutto made his political moves as he promised. The era of Bhutto is also called the era of reforms and reconstruction. The country started to move toward stability under the Bhutto. Bhutto's principal objective was to maintain his power and authority. He appointed a commission of Enquiry to investigate the military crackdown in East Pakistan. The reforms undertaken by the Bhutto government gave hope to impoverished masses. Some of the few reforms introduced by him are economic reforms including land reform, labor reform, industrial reforms, corporate reforms, banking reforms, and nationalization policy. Others include health

reform, educational reform, and law reform. The most prominent achievements of the PPP government were the 1973 constitution, nuclear program, and nationalization policy. Bhutto has wide experience as a foreign minister, he tried to build a good relationship with Islamic countries of the world. The second Islamic Summit Conference was held in Pakistan on 2 Feb 1974 was attended by all Muslim states. Also developed a good relationship with China, Russia, Iran, and all middle countries in the middle east. The constitution of 1973 has great importance. It is considered a sacred document of Pakistan politics. It was the first constitution on which all the left, and right-wing parties agreed. 1973 constitution was approved by National Assembly on 10 April 1973. He introduced several reforms to stabilize the economy of Pakistan. He masterminded Pakistan's steel mill, a second port, the first hydroelectric dam on Indus, nationalization of industries, banks, insurance companies, and inaugurated many other industries. He also started the Kahuta project for Nuclear Bombs. Land reforms introduced in 1972 slashed the individuals holding of land to 150 acres of irrigated and 300 acres of un-irrigated land. He also introduced labor policy and the 1<sup>st</sup> may is declared as Labor-day. Education was made free up to matric for both boys and girls, and free books were provided to them.

Other than his reforms the political attitude of Bhutto was controversial. He has control of the governments of Sindh, and Punjab. In the case of NWFP, and Balochistan there the power was in hands of NAP, and some men of Wali khan. Bhutto replaced the government in both provinces. This resulted in the opposition to the government. Bhutto tackled these oppositions some time through democratic ways, and some time by undemocratic means. Some politicians from within the ranks also opposed Bhutto like Mr. Nuruzzaman, Sindh Governor Mir Rasul Baksh, and some others as well.

### **Conclusion**

Pakistan people's party during its formative phase had support from students, workers, laborers, and peasants. In-

office from 1971 to 1977, it commenced a lot of reforms to stabilize the economy and the economic conditions of the deprived class of society. Bhutto's era was the symbol of reforms and reconstruction. He faced opposition from religious political parties, from NWFP and Baluchistan but was able to tackle his opponents. Despite many challenges, PPP was able to score 61.1% result in the 1977 elections. The rule of PPP under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto came to end after the military coup launched by General Zia-ul-Haq.