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Political Instability in Pakistan (1947-1956)

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Abstract:

The focus of research is to explore the facts which were the major cause of political instability in Pakistan since 1947-1956. Lack of effective leadership in the PML ruling party and political leaders made it easier for Governor General to dominate the political scene. The opposition, too, failed to offer an effective political alternative. The constitution which Nazimuddin tried to give to the Nation at the end of 1952 was not acceptable to most of politicians. The Islamic provisions of the proposed Constitution, the representation of the two wings in the future parliament, and the language controversy were the main issues of dispute. So long as Nazim- ud- Din was Prime Minister these issues remained unsolved. He was a gentleman no doubt but he was fail in politics. Governor dismissed the Nazim ud din, who had confidence in assembly. After him Muhammad Ali Bogra succeeded. The Governor dismissed the Nazim ud Din government without any solid reason and gave statement that he was lose the public confidence and failed to control the problems. In Mohammad Ali Bogra, he found a Prime Minister, who never disobeys him. At that time, Ghulam Mohammad made Daultana to resign from the Chief Ministership of the Punjab. The same year Qaiyum was removed from provincial politics and was brought to the centre.

Keywords: Political Instability, Feudalism, Failure of Political Decisions

1. Introduction

Pakistan emerged 14 August 1947, on the world map. It was created in the name of nationalism. It was the result of great effort of political leaders and Muslims of India. Historically Pakistan has faced crucial problems in political life in the post independent years. Due to crises, conflicts and issues created instability in government and politics. The focus of research is to explore the facts which were the major cause of political instability in Pakistan since 1947-1956. In later to discuss the sustain constitution making process which was the cause of weak political institutions in initial phase of Pakistan. Indian act 1935 was enforced in the country with amendments. Then I will explore analytically the role of Prime Minister Liaqat Ali Khan, Muhammad Ali Bogra and Chaudhri Muhammad Ali in forming a constitution.

Muslim league was the major political party of Muslims in sub-continent. It played major role in political struggle of Muslims. Muslim league gave the political platform to the Indian Muslims to achieve their goals. But it failed to become mass party in the post independent period. It became the victim of fictions. That's why other parties were emerged but our government could not found healthy opposition parties, which could criticize the government. Jinnah and some other honest and devotional leaders gave the Muslims a vision which comes true after the political struggle. But unfortunately, we could not found leadership after the Jinnah. Most of politicians work for power capturing.

2. Literature Review

Zarina Salamat, Pakistan 1947-58 An Historical Review, (Islamabad: National Institute of Historical and Culture Research, 1992). This book is about the problems of new born state and discusses the development and political issues. Huma Naz, Bureaucratic Elites & Political Developments in Pakistan 1947-58 (Islamabad: National Institute of Pakistan Studies, 1990), The Author discusses the relationship of politician and bureaucracy and political events since 1947-58. In the same way, Syed Sami Ahmad, History of Pakistan and role of the Army (Karachi: Royal Book Company, 2004), He discuss the main political events in different government and military role and first military regime of Ayub Khan.

Hamid Yusuf, Pakistan A study of Political Development 1947-97, (Lahore: Sang-E- Meel publications, 1999), he wrote the political and constitutional development and events during the different government and martial law regime. Going in the same way, Mushtaq Ahmad, Government and Politics in Pakistan (Karachi: Royal Book company, 1970), he wrote the political events in democratic and military regime. He also discusses the political and constitutional conflicts in different government. Khalid B Syeed, The political system of Pakistan, (Karachi: Oxford university press, 1967), he wrote political culture, conflicts, demands and weakness of political system of Pakistan in Democratic and martial law regime. M. Rafique Afzal, Political parties in Pakistan, (Islamabad: National Commission on Historical and cultural Research, 1989) he discussed the political parties role movement and after independent in politics and government. He also write Muslim League role before and after independence and decline which was gave strength to other parties and victim to fictions itself. Similarly, Keith B Callard, Political Forces in Pakistan, (New York: Institute of Pacific Relations, 1959) author discusses the difficulties faced by new state and political

instability in 1947-1958. Allen McGrath, *The destruction of Pakistan's Democracy*, (Karachi: Oxford university press, 1996), the Author discusses the different events which destructed the democratic norms and political conflicts in constitution making. G.W. Choudhry, *Constitutional Development in Pakistan*, (Lahore: The Ideal Book House, 1969), in this book of wrote briefly history of constitutional development and issues of delay constitution making. In the same way, Riaz Ahmad, *Constitutional and political development in Pakistan 1951-54*, (Rawalpindi: Pak-America commercial Ltd, 1981), in this book, he wrote the political problems in crucial years since 1951-54. Silmliarly, Muhammad Hassan, *Pakistan Vision causes of Military Intervention in Pakistan: A Revisionist Discourse*, (Lahore: Pakistan study centre, 2011) the writer discuss the political problems which was created political instability and conflicts which were main reasons of military intervention in politics. Rafi Ullah Shehab, *Fifty Years of Pakistan*, (Lahore: Maqbool acadmy, 1990) The Author wrote about Pakistan Nationalism, division and fifty years detail about political and government development and crises. He also examines briefly civil and military regime and Pakistan foreign policy and strategies.

3. Research Methodology

This study consists of secondary resources such as Books, Journals newspaper and articles. I did collect material and data from libraries and research centers Such as Quaid-i-Azam University, Historical and Research Centre Islamabad, National Library, Allama Iqbal Open University Library, Islamic University and Liaquat Bagh Municipal Library.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Failure of Political Leadership

In political system of Pakistan, feudal had a great hold in politics in center and provinces. They had been get good position in politics; on the other hand leaders are mostly depended on them. Feudal or landlords had a hold on public and their votes. These are not sincere with public but had own interests in government. So in the Pakistan political history, most of the political parties was depended on feudal because they provides money and votes for political parties and got own interests. The other class of people who interfered in politics and leaders of the parties are lawyers. These people are well dominated in politics in Pakistan political history. They have knowledge about politics and government. (Aziz, 2001).

Jinnah was also lawyer and great leader of subcontinent Muslims. Since 1947 to 1956, in our country had no young and labour leadership, who had plays any role in political stability or settled the issues regarding to politics. We had not that type of leaders or politicians because local political parties were to weak and political activities were hands of big parties. The other influence on leadership was the piers and Ghadi Neshanic. These people were belonged to religious group and some of them had political parties and became leaders. But these were also had own interests. They were not work for public or country (Aziz, 2001).

4.2. Heads of State Involve in Instable Government

According to parliamentary form of government, the head of state had no role to play in politics. In Pakistan democratic era, years between 1951 to 1956 is called weak democratic period. Ghulam Mohammad and Iskandar Mirza were the head of the state. These heads violated that rule as a chief of the country were involve in political activities.

They had hold on parties, government and bureaucracy. They also play major role to make weak political parties and government. They were involved to make instable government at center and in provinces. Ghulam Mohammad and Iskandar Mirza were belonged to bureaucracy. In this period no election were held. Legislature was elected indirectly. Only in 1954 election were held in provincial level. The other action by Ghulam Mohammad which was out of democratic law, the dismissal of prime minister Nazim-ud- Din who had a vote of confidence in assembly (Hassan, *Causes of Military Intervention in Pakistan: A Revisionist Discourse* "Pakistan Vision" 12,2, 2011, 78-81).

No voice was heard against prime minister Dismissal. No actions of assembly like discussion or notice were taken for his remove. This act was against the democratic rule and show the where no voice heard. For own interest he appointed Bogra as a prime minister. Relationships between Bogra and Ghulam Mohammad were just like an owner and a servant. "He was only show-boy" (Ahmad, 2004).

4.3. Political Parties of Pakistan 1947 to 1956

4.3.1. Awami Muslim League

On June 1949, Awami Muslim League was launched in East Pakistan. In East Pakistan Bhashani as president, Ata Ur Rehman as vice President, Shamsul Haq as General Sectary. The party main objectives in East Pakistan were provincial issues and economic situation. After that provincial Awami League was emerged. The prominent leader of Muslim joined the Awami League. Pir Manki launched Awami party in NWFP. (Salamat: 1992)

4.3.2. The Pakistan National Congress

Indian National Congress was the political organization in sub-continent before partition. After the separation INC organize The Pakistan National Congress in Pakistan. Its leader was S.C Chattopadhyaya and it's got fifteen seats in constitution assembly of Pakistan. It was major opposition party in post independence period. It was represented the minorities of Pakistan, and had main strength in East Wing. The party supported Bengali Language controversy, opposed the Objective Resolution and 1st BPC report. Almost 20% Hindus lived in East Pakistan and party had got 28 seats in East Pakistan legislative Assembly Election of 1954 (Ahmad, 1981).

4.3.3. Jamaat- I-Islami

Jamaat-I-Islami was well organized political party which has Islamic agenda. It was established by Maulana Abul Ala Maududi in 1941. The main objective of the party was to create Islamic state and society. Firstly, it was against the creation of Pakistan, because chief organizer was thought that All Muslim of the world is Ummah. Muslims of India are part of that Nation. When Pakistan came into being, these people shifted into Pakistan to established Pakistan an Islamic state. Its members mostly criticized PML and even Jinnah.

4.3.4. Pakistan Muslim League

Pakistan Muslim League was the major party in movement of Pakistan and also in initial phase of Pakistan politics. The reason behind its success was its manifesto "Muslim of the sub-continent wanted to build up their lives in accordance with the teaching of Islam". PML party main objective (creation of Muslim state) had got and Pakistan established as a separate state. But after the death of Jinnah, very soon League lose its position because it was starting divide into many factions. When Jinnah was died, no one is able to fulfill his position in party as well as in country. Lack of honest leadership political parties were in weak position. Most of leaders change their position in different parties because of own interest. (Afzal,1977).

4.3.5. Weak Political Parties

Political parties play an important role in political system of any country. It also had important in democratic system. In Pakistan post independence period, Pakistan Muslim League, Jamaat-i-Islami, Awami Muslim League and Pakistan National Congress were the major parties in politics.

The other parties were Nizam-i-Islam, Azad Pakistan Party, Sind Awami Mahaz, Communist party. The major party in Pakistan movement was declined and other parties were formed in Pakistan. After the Jinnah and Liaquat Ali, it could not found leadership. The politicians were work for self interest and there were no party who worked for country development.

5. Conclusion

In August 1947 Pakistan was become an independent state. It was created in the name of nationalism and great political struggle of Muslims and political leaders of All India Muslim League. Many problems inherited to Pakistan, and it was difficult to politicians to overcome these problems.

We got country after the great political struggle. But Pakistan's political system failed in post independence period. Jinnah disappeared from the political scene in September 1948. After that Liaquat Ali Khan tried to tackle the situation. But the provincialism, Linguistic problem and Anti- Ahmadiyan Movement created problem for government. Objective Resolution passed by Assembly, but it criticized and Liaquat Ali Khan wanted to frame the constitution as early possible. On October 1951, he was shut down by an assassinated at a public meeting in Rawalpindi.

Liaquat's demise, Khawaja Nazim ud din stepped down from the office of the Governor General to become the Prime Minister. He helped Ghulam Mohammed to succeed him as the Governor General in the hope that the new Head of the state would also follow the traditions of parliamentary democracy. But Ghulam Mohammed refused to act as a mere constitutional head and made full use of the powers granted him under the modified Act of 1935 and Indian Independence Act of 1947.

Lack of effective leadership in the PML ruling party and political leaders made it easier for Governor General to dominate the political scene. The opposition, too, failed to offer an effective political alternative. The constitution which Nazimuddin tried to give to the Nation at the end of 1952 was not acceptable to most of politicians. The Islamic provisions of the proposed Constitution, the representation of the two wings in the future parliament, and the language controversy were the main issues of dispute. So long as Nazim- ud- Din was Prime Minister these issues remained unsolved. He was a gentleman no doubt but he was fail in politics. Governor dismissed the Nazim ud din, who had confidence in assembly. After him Muhammad Ali Bogra succeeded. The Governor dismissed the Nazim ud Din government without any solid reason and gave statement that he was lose the public confidence and failed to control the problems. In Mohammad Ali Bogra, he found a Prime Minister, who never disobeys him. At that time, Ghulam Mohammad made Daultana to resign from the Chief Ministership of the Punjab. The same year Qaiyum was removed from provincial politics and was brought to the centre.

Anti Ahmadiyan movement also create problems for country and government failed to control the situation. At that time military involve in political system. When Martial law imposed in the Lahore, Chief Minister of Punjab was dismissed. So the politicians were as much responsible the intervention of army and Bureaucracy in political system. The ruling party, the PML was itself plagued by factionalism. The power hunger PML politicians were always ready to capture the rule. The opposition was also unable to provide any responsible leadership. The East Bengal- based Pakistan National Congress was the main opposition party and its leader continuously criticism of the PML on various Constitutional and political issues.

Outside the CAP, the opposition was concentrated on many groups. The Azad Pakistan Party, The Islam League and Jamaat-e-Islami in West Pakistan and Awami League and Krishak Sramik party in Eastern wing, were more important. The eastern parties became the chief components of the United Front. So the weak political parties, dishonest leadership, political and religious conflicts, Bureaucracy created problems for every government. Since 1947-1956 four Governor General and four Prime Minister were change in centre government and many were in provinces. We could not make constitution for new born state as early and also not established strong parliamentary, democratic political system. Pakistan's political system was failed and development was sustained due to instability.

To sum up of these, the political and government situation throughout that era was very worse and unstable. The power politics dominated and many unconstitutional events were held. Our country was failed to develop strong political system according to parliamentary system. Due to instability we could not pay attention to prosperity and development in initial years.

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