

## Lecture 16

# HUM113 IDEOLOGY AND CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN



COMSATS University  
Islamabad



# HUM 113 IDEOLOGY AND CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN

Political System and Political Parties of  
Pakistan

**Dr. Sohail Ahmad**

# Political System of Pakistan



- 1956 Constitution
- Unicameral- Parliamentary
- 1962 Constitution
- Unicameral- Presidential
- 1973 Constitution
- Bicameral- Parliamentary

# Defining a Political Party



- A **political party** is defined as an organized group of people with at least roughly similar **political** aims and opinions, that seeks to influence public policy by getting its candidates elected to public office
- An organization of people who share the same views about the way power should be used in a country or society (through government, policy-making, etc)

# Political Parities in Pakistan



- There are around 90 fringe political parties
- Around a dozen mainstream political parties are there in the country.
- These parties primarily try to find a breathing space and survive.
- However, keeping in view the diverse issues in the country; Pakistan is considered as one of the fertile states for political parties

# Political Parities in Pakistan



- Political parties in Pakistan have remained underdeveloped due to authoritarian political culture, imbalance between powerful state and weak political institutions.

# Political Parities in Pakistan



- Except the right wing religious political parties, the majority of political parties in Pakistan are least interested in any form of political education of the masses.
- The followers of most of the political parties mainly rely on the speeches of their leaders in public gatherings or on the views of their leaders disseminated through print and electronic media.
- The tradition of study circles, position papers by the leaders and the workers prevailed in the late 1960's however, it vanished with the passage of time.

# Political Parities in Pakistan



- **Historical Reasons of Weak Political Parties**
- Within the colonial state structure that **Pakistan inherited, the state institutions, like the military and civil bureaucracy, were far more developed than the political institutions such as legislatures and political parties.**
- The **All-India Muslim League, to whom power was transferred in August 1947, was unable to transform itself** from a movement to a genuine national political party. **It was and remains an elitist organization and does not practice internal democracy.**



# Political Parities in Pakistan



- **Islamic Politics**
- Since Pakistan's inception, the **combination of self-interest and Islamic politics has complicated the problem** of building a political organization with broad responsibilities to the larger society.
- **Efforts by other parties to contest the power of the League were frustrated** and the opposition politicians were often physically prevented from appealing to their constituents and by dubbing them unpatriotic.
- **The League governments used repressive measures against** them. The Red Shirt (NWFP), Majlis-i-Ahrar, Jama'at-i-Islami, and the Pakistan National Congress were the targets at different times.