Civil Military Relations in Pakistan (B)

Internal Factors

1. Role of Judiciary:

When we talk about the role of judiciary in civil-military relationship in Pakistan, the most important case that comes in to play is Maulvi Tamizudin Case (1954-1955). Governor General Ghulam Muhammad dismissed the Constituent Assembly in 1954 to save his own powers as assembly was trying to make legislative attempts to put checks on Governor General powers. This act of Ghulam Muhammad was challenged by Maulvi Tamizudin (Speaker of the assembly) in Sindh High Court. Sindh High Court ruled the decision in favor of Maulvi Tamizudin. Appeal was made in Supreme Court and Chief Justice of Supreme Court Muhammad Munir over turned the decision in the favor of Ghulam Muhammad in 1955 under the doctrine of necessity. This decision of Supreme Court was considered undemocratic and it became the basis of military interventions in civil politics/government. This decision of Chief Justice Muhammad Munir continued to haunt Civil government until suspension of Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry by President/Chief of Army Staff Pervez Musharaf in 2007.

2. Absence of Land Reforms:

Feudalism is opposite to democracy as in democracy people power is chosen to elect a government in the country. While landlords cannot empower people (peasants) working under them as it weakens their hold over their land and peasants. So, it is suitable for landlords to deal with a military dictator rather than a democratic government and likewise it is easy for a military dictator to deal with landlords as a lot of people work under them.

3. Absence of Independent Election Commission:

Another factor that facilitated the rise of army to power in Pakistan was ineligibility of election commission to conduct free and fair multi-party elections in Pakistan. Free and fair elections result in a strong, democratic government of people's choice, which would lessen the conspiracies of army against civil government.

International Factors that have Influenced the Civil-Military Relationships

World War II / Cold War Years:

After World War II, world divided in to two blocs capitalist bloc led by the U.S. and Communist bloc led by USSR. Post-World War II, national independence movements and decolonization, observed an increase in the role of the military in the developing countries. Military was considered the strongest institution in a new state due to the former monetary, colonial and training assistance.

In 1950s America invited India to join Capitalist Bloc against Communist Bloc, but Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru refused to join US and remained neutral in this Capitalist-Communist confrontation. However, Pakistan signed US sponsored military pacts SEATO (1954) and CENTO (1955), which further strengthened the position of army in Pakistan as army was on front in the negotiation in these pacts and it was easier for US to deal with army rather than political parties. During cold war years America provide tacit support to army which led to army intervention in Pakistani politics. These things were ignored as the main concern was security of Pakistan as our neighboring country India was busy in conspiracies against Pakistan.

Internal Threats

Main ethnic groups that live in Pakistan:

1) Punjabi

2) Sindhi

3) Pashtun

4) Balochi

5) Mohajir

These different ethnic groups have linkages to different nations based on ethnicity i.e. mohajirs are migrated from India. These transnational links/relations should be used for betterment of Pakistan and not for its destruction.