

Lecture 09

HUM117 PAKISTAN STUDIES



COMSATS University
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Civil Military Relations in Pakistan: A Brief Survey (Part A)

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Civil Military Relations



- Civil–military relations describes the relationship between civil society as a whole and the military organization or organizations established to protect it.
- More narrowly it describes the relationship between the civil authority of a given society and its military authority.
- The term “civil–military relations” refers to the role of the armed forces in a society. It implies that the relations between the military and the civilian population are like labor-management relations, legislative-executive relations civil-military relations includes studies of how a military employs civilian contractors, how military bases interact with their neighbors, and how a nation's military affects its politics

Civil Military Relations in Pakistan: A Brief Survey



- Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan always on a Bumpy Road.
- The most basic precondition of a true democratic setup is a healthy civil-military relationship. In all democratic countries, an elected civilian government enjoys full control over the military. However, **in Pakistan, control over governance has oscillated between the two; a decade of civilian supremacy followed by a decade of military rule.** The reasons for this periodic shuffling are incompetent political leadership, weak political parties and institutions, rising power of civil-military bureaucracy, serious security threats to the country and frequent use of military in aid of civil power.

Civil Military Relations in Pakistan: A Brief Survey



- Four coups since its inception : 1958, 1969, 1977, 1999
- Military in Pakistan has ruled the country 33 out of its 71 years
- It is widely believed that **army is the most powerful institutional player** in the country, even **when not in power rules from behind the scenes**

Civil Military Relations in Pakistan: A Brief Survey



- Pakistan: Globally an important nuclear-armed country
- Allegedly Haven for terrorists attacking internationally and domestically
- Central to America's Afghanistan strategy
- Regarded by some as soon to be failed state

Civil Military Relations in Pakistan: A Brief Survey



- Factors to be Analyzed
- External Threats
- Internal Threats
- Military Composition
- Condition of the State
- Military Institutionalization

External Threat



- Pakistan-India Relations
- Many in Pakistan consider India an existential threat to Pakistan's survival
- Issues
- Hindu-Muslim antagonism dating from partition
- Wars in 1947, 1965, 1971, 1999
- Kashmir
- Terrorism

Internal Factors



- **The Untimely Demise of the Jinnah and A Leadership Crisis.**
- The first year of Independence was marked by **heavy dependence on the charismatic personality of Jinnah**; he was Governor-General and President of the Constituent Assembly.
- He had **charismatic appeal, stature and unrivalled prestige** that commanded and compelled unquestioned acceptance of his leadership all over Pakistan. However, he died on **11 September 1948**, leaving behind an enduring political vacuum.

Internal Factors



- **Liaquat Ali Khan,**
- Jinnah's lieutenant and **Pakistan's first Prime Minister**, guided the country with courage and confidence during a difficult period but lacked the authority of the Jinnah.
- He endeavored **to strengthen the parliamentary system**, but his tenure was cut short by an **assassin's bullet in October 1951**.

Internal Factors



- With Liaquat's death, the facade of **"parliamentary democracy"** began to erode.
- The **bureaucratic elites** did not take long to **convert the office of Governor-General** into an **instrument of bureaucratic intervention**.
- **In the provinces**, on several occasions, **bureaucratic intervention occurred in the garb of the Governor's rule**. The Chief Ministers were dismissed, despite the fact that their parties had a majority in the provincial assemblies.

Internal Factors



- **Provincialism**
- The **geographical separation of East and West Pakistan** produced not only **administrative, physical but social, economic and political problems** as well.
- Pakistan was an agricultural country and poor.
- **East Pakistan**
- East was **economically worse off** than West Pakistan. The Pakistan Muslim League **policies were purportedly directed toward overall economic development, but focused on West-Pakistan**, which contributed to Bengali deprivation and alienation.

Internal Factors



- **The Constitution Making Dilemma 1947-56**
- (Punjabi/Bengali Controversy)
- Constitution making in Pakistan **was delayed for about nine long years.**
- The two most important factors which delayed constitution making in Pakistan were the **differences between Punjabi dominated West Pakistani elite, and East Pakistani.**
- East Pakistan demanded maximum provincial autonomy, whereas the West wing favoured a strong centre.