



Initial Problems of Pakistan

Initial Problems

Pakistan had to face problems right after its independence. It was because Pakistan was carved out of the peripheral areas of the subcontinent where infrastructure was not well developed. So, Pakistan had to build everything from scratch. Following are the initial problems of Pakistan.

1. Political Problems
2. New Administration
3. Division of Assets
4. Integration of the Princely States
5. Communal Riots and Arrival of Refugees
6. Canal Water Dispute and Trade Issues
7. Economic Problems
8. Social Problems

1. Political Problems

There was a lack of experienced lawmakers in new Pakistan. There were mostly feudal lords. The constituent assembly failed to frame a constitution even in eight years. Lack of a permanent constitution created chances of unscrupulous interference in democratic progress of Pakistan.

2. New Administration

In the new country, there was a shortage of human power especially senior officers. The senior officers did not want to come to Pakistan as it was underdeveloped. There was a lack of building for the administrative workers, lack of furniture and equipment. Offices were operating in tents, and it was less efficient.

3. Division of Assets

At the time of division of assets, the actual share of Pakistan was 750 million, but only 200 million was given. British rulers were not willing to give the rest of the share to India and Pakistan. Gandhi went on a hunger strike to put pressure on the government. It worked, and they gave the rest of the amount.

Military assets were also divided.

- Six armoured divisions were given to Pakistan while India got 14
- Eight artillery divisions were given to Pakistan while India got 40
- Eight infantry divisions were given to Pakistan while India got 21

4. Integration of the Princely States

There were 560 princely states in the subcontinent before independence. Almost 500 joined India before 15th August 1947. The princes were inclined to honor every gesture of the British representative, so they conceded to what the member of the Royal family (Mountbatten) wished. There were some particular cases of the states.

i. Junagadh

It was a small state with access to sea having about 7 lakh population and 3377-mile area. The ruler was Muslim while the majority of its population was Hindu. The ruler decided to accede to Pakistan and Pakistan also accepted the accession. It was a princely state. There was a Muslim ruler, and the majority of the population was Hindu. In November 1947, the Indian troops entered the state and took its control. The referendum favored India. Indian forces entered and annexed it with India.

ii. Hyderabad

It was geographically big and financially a rich state. Its ruler was Muslim named Nizam and majority population was Hindu. It was surrounded by India from all sides. The Nizam wanted to stay independent. Mountbatten discouraged him and signed Standstill Agreement. But India built pressure on the Nizam by sending its troops in September 1948 claiming that serious law and order situation had developed. The state was integrated in India. He wanted to keep Hyderabad independent from India and Pakistan. However, India again annexed it with India,

iii. Kashmir

The most important state was Kashmir naturally connected with Pakistan. Its ruler was Hindu Maharaja while population was Muslim. It was the most crucial state. The population inclined towards Pakistan, but the Hindu ruler declared to join India. The Kashmiri people revolted against the ruler in Poonch area and soon it became widespread. The ruler sought Indian support. India demanded accession. On October 27, 1947 Indian troops landed in Srinagar. The people continued their struggle for independence and India promised to finally settle the matter with reference to the people under the UN Resolutions. After the war in 1948, India has half of the Kashmir which is called Indian occupied Kashmir and the other half is under Pakistan was known as Azad Jammu Kashmir.

5. Communal Riots and Refugee Crises

The Communal riots occurred earlier in August 1946. The killing of Muslims in Indian areas forced them to leave India. The military was asked to help cope with the refugee problem. After the independence, when the Muslims were migrating towards Pakistan, they were attacked by Extremist Hindus and Sikhs, and thousands of Muslims were massacred. There were organized gangs to kill the Muslims. The refugee problem created critical condition in the border areas. The massive migration proved serious economic and humanitarian problems for the new state. The people who reached Pakistan alive were the refugees. It was quite challenging for the new country to cater to the several needs of the refugees.

6. Water dispute

In 1948, there was a water dispute between India and Pakistan as India stopped the water from Ravi and Sutlej. It was a threat to the already fragile economy of Pakistan. This matter was taken to the World Bank. In 1960 the Indus water treaty was signed according to which three eastern rivers Ravi, Sutlej and Beas came under India and it can build dams on it, while three western rivers came under Pakistan namely Chenab, Jhelum and Indus.

7. Economic problems

Pakistan had a very weak economy at the time of independence. There were few industries. The war in Kashmir, the issue of refugees and the water dispute created problems for Pakistan. The industrial enterprise was 10%, industrial workers were 0.5%, electrical capacity was 5%, and mineral deposits were 10%.

8. Social Problems

Many sects imposed social pressures at the time of formation of Pakistan. The Pakhtuns were not in favor of Pakistan at the time of partition and were threat to the integration of the country. The Balochs do not want to join Pakistan, as they want independent status. The Sindhis wanted to stay with India. The Punjabis were majority in number and wanted a separate nation. The Bengalis were equal or greater than the people in the West Pakistan and were not in favor of Pakistan.