

The Role of National Awami Party (NAP) Government and Its Impact On the Politics of Balochistan:

By

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Abstract:

National Awami Party was the largest nationalist party to ever form government in Balochistan. It had a successful alliance of the Baloch Sardars along with the alliance of the Pakhtoon nationalist leaders as well. This article aimed at discovering the impact of the dismissal of ^{NAP} on the political course of Balochistan. For this purpose, a liker scale questionnaire was developed and distributed among 100 people and the responses and opinions of the participants were analyzed one by one through the SPSS. The results analyzed showed that the dismissal of the NAP had a deep impact on the politics of Balochistan and it was the last ditch effort of the leaders of Balochistan to represent the interests of the people in the true spirit. Since then, the so called nationalists have replaced the true nationalism and family politics at the expense of the public welfare is taking place.

Keywords: NAP, Balochistan, Z.A Bhutto, dismissal, nationalism

Introduction:

National Awami party was the first ever leftist party to emerge on the provincial level in Balochistan. All the prominent leaders of the 1970's like Ghaus Baksh Bezanjo, Meer Gul Khan Naseer and the brother of Khan of Kalat Prince Agha Abdul Karim were the leading members of the party. It had some obvious agendas, the abolition of the One Unit, the end of the discriminatory behavior of the military Junta later the aggressive behavior of Z.A Bhutto toward granting provincial autonomy were the main agendas. (Jan, 1989)

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This party was the provincial faction of the NAP in the larger context which was started in East Pakistan in 1957 and joined by all the leftist politicians and intellectuals of both the wings of Pakistan. This party in the initial stages was banned by Ayub Khan and later on banned permanently by Bhutto. NAP played the role of an active opposition to the military rule of Ayub Khan and Yahya Khan and it swept the majority of the votes in the elections of 1970 in Balochistan and KPK. (Hashmi, 2015)

It in the outset wanted to make a collation with the Awami League of Mujeeb ur Rehman, but as Yahya Khan banned the political party of the latter, the NAP did not have much of a choice, but to join hands with the Pakistan People's Party of Bhutto. After the debacle of East Pakistan Bhutto remained the president of West Pakistan which was the only remaining wing so it was called only Pakistan in the interim period of the Constituent Assembly that was to make the constitution by 1973. In 1973, he assumed the office of premiership. The NAP was by passed by Bhutto in the appointment of the governor of Balochistan as the NAP wanted a leftist, if not a leftist then a civilian to be appointed as the first governor of Balochistan, but Bhutto appointed Lieutenant Riaz Ahmed as the first governor of Balochistan, thus, driving the first wedge between the NAP and the central government. (Bansal, 2010)

The party's resistance was ultimately dealt with by force by Bhutto who not only banned the party, but also put all the active members of the party behind the bars. Without a fair trial, they were charged with treason. The consequences of the abolition of this party on the future politics of Balochistan were far reaching. These leaders who were imprisoned were released in the period of Zia regime, but the seeds of nationalism among the youth had already been sown and Balochistan had been pushed to isolation. (Harrison, 1981)

Its abolition was followed by the end of the government of the first chief Minister Attaullah Mengal by Bhutto who dissolved the assembly of Balochistan creating a tussle between the province and the center for power struggle and the relations since then have been intense and there has also been the issue of trust deficit. Provincial autonomy still remains the top priority of the nationalists in the province and the youth still feels isolated from the process of national politics and national development. (Mazari, 1999)

Statement of the Problem:

Without an iota of doubt, Balochistan is the most strategically pivotal province of Pakistan. Besides possessing the largest and most

important coastal belt of the country, it is highly abundant in mineral reserves, especially, the energy resources. The center-province relations have been strained throughout the period from the very outset, for most of the part over the distribution and control of the natural resources. The strained relations over the natural resources soon led the province toward isolations from the national politics causing the youth to be alienated from the course of the national development as well. However, the politics of the province got a severe jolt from the dismissal of the NAP National Awami Party by the then prime minister of Pakistan Z.A Bhutto along with it was dissolved the provincial assembly of Balochistan led by Attaullah Mengal.

The dismissal of the NAP cast a gloom across the province and pushed the already wandering youth toward separatist nationalism. The military solutions are not always the viable solutions, therefore, there is the need for looking toward some political solution to end the widespread separatist sentiments among the public, especially, among the youth and to ensure that the central government does not demonstrate power again like it did against the NAP.

Objectives of the Study:

- Try to find out the causes due to which the National Awami Party's government was dismissed in Balochistan.
- Try to elaborate the misunderstandings between Baloch leadership and the central government Pakistan.
- Try to explain the political dynamics of Baloch politics after the NAP government in Balochistan.

Scope of the Research:

- ❖ The scope of the research will be on the NAP government and the period focused is 1970's.

Research Methodology:

This given research is based on the quantitative mode of the research as it mainly relies upon questionnaires rather than descriptive analysis. This kind of research is time saving and more elaborative of the opinion of the public with regards to a particular topic. However, it does not mean that the qualitative mode of the research is not touched at all. For the in depth analysis of the responses that were received from the public had to be thoroughly analyzed one by one where the qualitative description was required.

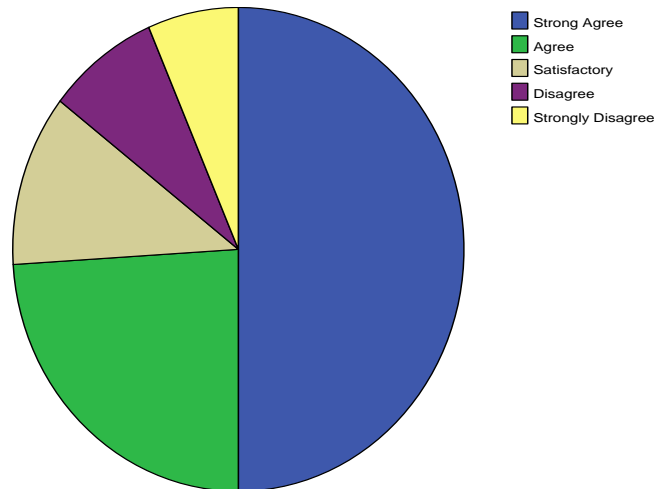
The conclusion as well contains the descriptive analysis. After the first and second chapters, the third chapter was the methodological chapter which described that what sort of methodology was used and then the chapter of data analysis was used and finally the results and findings were generally analyzed in the conclusion.

Main Tables

NAP was the only example of unity among the Baloch political factions to ventilate their grievances.

	Freque ncy	Percen t	Valid Percent	Cumulativ e Percent
Valid Strongly Agree	100	50.0	50.0	50.0
Agree	48	24.0	24.0	74.0
Satisfactory	23	11.5	11.5	85.5
Disagree	16	8.0	8.0	93.5
Strongly Disagree	13	6.5	6.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	

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NAP was the only example of unity among the Baloch political factions to ventilate their grievances. There is no denying the truth that since the dismissal of the NAP, the political parties of Balochistan whether they are Pakhtoon or Baloch parties, whether they are religious or nationalist parties, they have failed to maintain their unity for long enough. On the slightest pretext, they start propaganda against each other. Even the Baloch nationalist parties are also divided among themselves or zone wise working on different agendas and goals without unity of command. The majority of the respondents to this question strongly agree and 23 percent of the respondents only agree while 6.5 percent of them strongly disagree and 8 percent of them only disagree. 11.5 percent of the respondents are neutral.

Discussion:

The politically ignorant people are so unaware of their surroundings that if once they are convinced by a political party or a politician, they inject their belief in that person for good even when the person does not deliver anything promised. This lack of political awareness is assisting the politicians to mold public opinion without hesitation. An overwhelming majority of Pakistanis even do not know that how the government structure works and how democracy applies to them and to the government. This political ignorance is cashed by the politicians that are why they demonstrate significant influence among the public opinion, especially, during the elections time.

Conclusion:

Balochistan is considered as the most important province of Pakistan by its geo-political and geo-strategic importance. Despite this the province is massively rich in natural resources that are the reason that its politics possess a vital place in the mainstream politics of the country. The iota of the facts is that Balochistan is the poorest province of the country despite of these huge deposits of natural resources.

From the very outset of the partition of the British India, Pakistan had been undergoing critical political ups and downs which have left the entire course of the politics of the country disturbed and unorganized. The political mistrust and haphazard decision making without having the least qualms of the consequences has led to much turmoil among the provinces and the center.

Key Recommendations:

Following are the main recommendations to reestablish peace in Balochistan and for the central government to compensate the political mistakes done in the past.

Bridging The Trust Gap Between the Central Government and The Provincial Government:

The center province relations are at par with each other from the very outset of the independence. The true genesis of the conflict lies in the non-compliance of both of the parties in the constitution of Pakistan in spirit. The constitution explicitly defines the powers and functions of the federation along its federating units, yet there is always a power struggle going on.

In its actual since, the major reason behind this power struggle is the military intervention every now and then in the government. After every military coup when the government tries to stabilize, it fails to restrain the use of power and as a result, the provinces go to the receiving end. There is acute need of bridging the gap between the center and the provinces in order to ensure that all the decisions taken in the future are coordinated and not one sided.

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