

Political Status of Balochistan from 1971 to 1988:

By

¹Rabia Abdullah ² Doctor Noor Ahmed

Abstract:

Since, the independence of Pakistan; Political status of Balochistan has been a core issue for the sustainability of society and the people living with in the territory of this country. its political background is more likely to be called as two edged ,because it faced worst conditions in the form of thousands of civilian being killed by the state themselves ,as well as being privileged by same authorities .1971 was the initiation of democracy in this province and 1973 is called to be a violent year in the political history of this province .Balochistan in late 70s and early 80s have seen the glory of economic , social and cultural uplift while the province also met with tragic wars between state agency and separatist organizations .this paper analysis those important political events which played significant role behind backwardness, likewise prejudicial behavior of center creates freedom fighters and towards the development of this province for instance abolishment of 'one unit', restoration of democracy in its true shape and handling the affairs of province to their own people .the history witnessed two types of politics the nationalist and their rivalry ethnic parties ruled the province.

Keywords: Balochistan, political status, separatists, democracy,

Introduction:

Balochistan a largest province by area is covering almost 44% of the total land mass of Pakistan and less populated province situated in the southwest of Pakistan and covers an area of 347,190 square kilometers (134,050 sq. mi) (Dashti, N et al.2012) .The province is bordered by Afghanistan to the north and north-west, Iran to the south-west, Punjab and Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas to the north-east ,to the south it lies to the Arabian Sea and Some 562 miles of the Persian Gulf's Makran Coast are in Balochistan(Shah, M. A et al.1997). Balochistan; since, the emergence of Pakistan in 1947 has

¹M.Phil. Scholar Pakistan Studies University of Balochistan Quetta Pakistan

²Associate Professor Pakistan Study Centre University of Balochistan Quetta Pakistan

been the core objective of foreign countries to interfere in its political affairs because it has been among the most important strategic location on earth due to its geographical significance and minerals abundance. The history of Pakistani politics can be evaluated into two phases which are the politics of pre 1971 and post 1971 because before and after 1971 ; country faced some geographical and political changes within its framework(Ahmed, F et al.1998).in 1970 president yahya khan abolished the 'One Unit' policy (Wirsing, R. G et al.2012) which led to the recognition of Balochistan as the fourth province of West Pakistan (present-day Pakistan), including all the Balochistani princely states, an 800 km² coastal area purchased from Oman by the Pakistani government. The status of the province got its first government as sardar Ataullah mengal was elected as first chief minister of Balochistan but later own the conflict of self-interest between Bhutto and Attaullah menghal , being the president of the country and the chief minister of Balochistan became worsen when Bhutto started a military operation against Baloch separatist which greatly contributed haters among the people of Balochistan against federal government and law enforcement agencies , In 1973, quoting subversion, Bhutto as president used powers and dismissed two assemblies which were Balochistan assembly and NWFP currently name as (Khyber pakhtoon khwa) these steps were the root cause of uprising banned organizations and their militant wings to gain the sympathies of a lay man .these armed insurgencies led towards the creation of militant wing in which one of was the Balochistan people's liberation front (BPLF) by Mir Hazar khan Ramkhani. which led large numbers of Marri and Mengal tribesmen into guerrilla warfare against the central government (*Akhtar, A. S et al 2007*). According to some authors, during conflict Pakistani military lost (300) to (400) soldiers with Baloch separatist and about 7300 to 9000 Balochi separatist and people of Balochistan lost their life Abbas, .et al 2005. Assisted by Iran, Pakistani forces inflicted heavy casualties on the separatists. The insurgency fell into decline after a return to the four-province structure and the abolishment of the Sardari system. An overwhelming majority of Baloch nationalists had rejected secession and struggled for autonomy within the framework of the Pakistani federation. But state repression blurred the division, pushing many moderates to ally themselves with the radicals. A large number of nationalist parties' cadres joined the armed struggle. As Balochistan has descended into anarchy, the state's authority has eroded. The military seems to have contained the insurgency, but has failed to win the trust of the alienated population or to effectively establish the writ of the state in a large part of the province. Balochistan in history has met with many ups and downs these were some

time created by the federal government while on their hand the sardar and nawabs were also found to be responsible in the backwardness of the province. the province was neglected by providing basic health and education policies which give rise to ignorance and the people started struggle against the center in form violent wars and other tactics which resultantly favors the terms anarchy in the province.

Material and Methods:

The research paper is about the political history of Balochistan with special reference to political status of Balochistan in past and the emergence of new political powers and their impacts on future of the province. The existing material about the political status of Balochistan for more than two decades is very evocative and vague. There for; recent study uses secondary form of information which consist of different types of books, newspapers, published articles and journals in order to search for the sake of well reputed history of Balochistan and its political background from 1971 to 1988. Primary sources like reports were also being added for the purpose of statistical facts and data collected so as to test the hypothesis behind the objectives of the study.

The main focus of the study was the roll of politicians and other institutions with in the frame work of newly emerged province which was governed by the federal government till the elimination of 'one unit' with status of a new province as democratic form of government in 1971.the study is concise form of Balochistan political history because it is very difficult to include all the background about Balochistan and its political scenario of twenty years in this short paper .the study shows the major events from 1971 to 1988 in its political upraised powers and future politics related to those events which are being neglected by analyzing the root cause of Balochistan problems.

Balochistan Political Status from 1971 to 1977:

Number of occasion takes palace with in these 5 years as the elimination of one unit, partition of west Pakistan from east Pakistan, status of provinces was recognized and newly elected assemblies were formed in each province with their electoral majority.

Abolishment of One Unit:

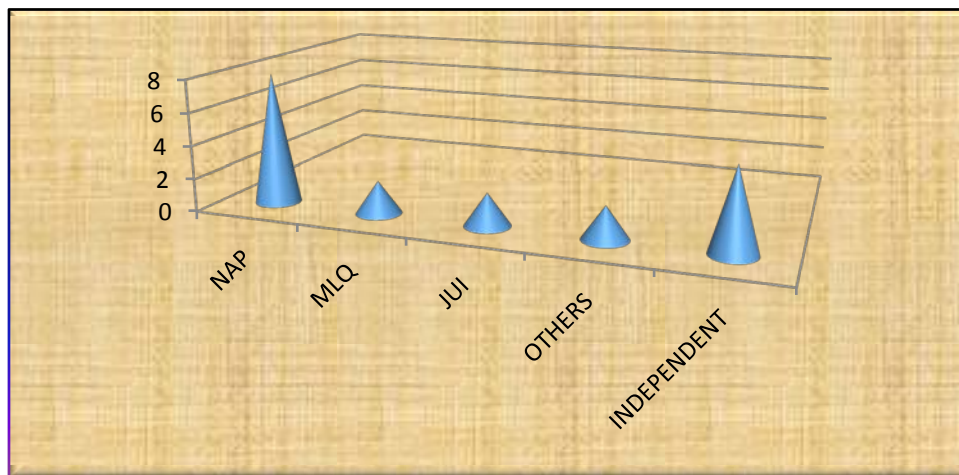
One unit was a geopolitical system which was initiated by government of Pakistan at the time when Muhammad ali bogra was the prime minister of Pakistan, He proposed a system which consist of all the provinces. the system was introduced 22 November 1954 and was imposed on all the administrated areas within the territory of Pakistan in order to build national integrity among east and west Pakistan (Hashmi, et al 2014).The system ended with intervene of military coup and martial law was

imposed with dismissal of prime minister office and yahya khan as martial law administrator abolished the province of west Pakistan as the end of 'one unit' on 1 July 1970.

First constitutional assembly of Balochistan;

General election in Pakistan were held in December 1970 in which the election was contested between two socialist parties which were Pakistan people, s party (ppp) and awami league. Awami league with leadership of shiek mujeeb ur rehman got sole majority in east Pakistan. The ppp also face a competition from parties like Muslim league (qayum) and other parties like jumate ulema islam and jumate islami (*Jones, Et al 2003*). JUI emerged victorious in Balochistan and the Marxist NAP in NWFP. out of 20 seats of provincial assembly national awami party (NAP) was in majority with 8 seat following with Muslim league Qayum (QML) with 3 seats, Jumiat ulema Islam (JUI) 2 seats, others 2 seats and independent with 5 seats. In 1971 when the provinces were demarcated and the election were held so NAP becomes majority party and they formed a coalition government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with JUI by supporting mufti Mahmud as chief minister and formed coalition government with other parties and Sardar attaullah mengal was elected as a first chief minister of Balochistan. Arbab sikandar khan and ghaus bux bizenjo appointed as governor of Khyber and Balochistan respectively.

Demographic representation of party position in 1971 provincial assembly



Military Operation Against Baloch Separatist 1973:

in 1973 an operation was started against Baloch militants under the supervision of army in which thousands of Baloch were killed on the basis of separation movement against the central government. Baloch separatists argue they are economically marginalized and poor compared to the rest of Pakistan (*Kemp, et al 2000*). means while Bhutto dismissed attaullah

mengal government by supporting the militant wings of separatist and imposed governor rule in province this set back in history blow a great sense of deprivation. moreover, a second operation was started On September 3, 1974 about a year after Mali Operation army launched "Operation Chamalang". It lasted three days.in this the operation heavy machinery like helicopters were also used so as to curb those separatist, the helicopters were also flown by Iranian pilots which also were in mutual mission against the separatist to eliminate .in the war Pakistani air force was employed essential strafing and spotting the militants in order to capture them .in this operation the army claimed that almost 120 guerrillas were killed and about 900 hundred captured by the army .this operation was called to be the bloodiest military operation in the history of Balochistan in which the army broke the back of guerrillas and they found helplessness and ready to surrender against the state agencies .the operation brought some peace in the region for some time .

Abolishment of Sardari System 1976:

when the operation against the insurgents was strengthened by air force by using helicopters and other tools so with moving to Afghanistan and surrendering against the state by 'ferraries', it resulted into declined of insurgencies in the province and the level of state rite was prevailed all over the province .1973 has been called as the insurgency at peak level and 1975 is the end of insurgency in the province .in this time frame according to sources almost 178 major encounters were launched against the separatist and guerrillas by the army and other state agencies .these operations were started and about 84 encounters and operation were took place in marri area and it was in 1974.the operation were also heled in different other parts of Balochistan including srawan and jalawan areas of khuzadar district , nushki and the isolated and far areas like kharan and Turbat. Areas were also in came in the fire of insurgencies and operations. meanwhile on 8 April 1976; prime minister zulfikar ali Bhutto abolished sardari system in Balochistan while holding a public meeting (Khan,.et al 1999). The announcement was greatly appreciated by the people of Balochistan and this was one of the important move from government in bhutto's era. Despite the fact that government brought many reforms and development funds in the province in butto's era the sardars of Balochistan enjoyed full support and funds from the province but they also blackmailed government and created haters among the people against the government. The saradars were very diplomatic as they highly rewarded by government and were also being honored by the people at the same time (Ahmad, S. I. et al 1992). Their devotions were almost for their self-interest largely but they also enjoyed pride for being Baloch leaders in

neighboring country Afghanistan as they can easily travel to through porous border with Afghanistan.

Nawab Akbar Bugti as Governor:

When Attaulla's government was being dismissed so Bhutto appointed nawab Akbar Bugti as a governor of Balochistan with final authorities from federal government. Akbar Bugti was in great favor of center and he did not raise the issues of the province and the hurdles faced by the province in its developing stage. after the dismissal of Bhutto's government by zia ul haq, he formulated a great plan for Balochistan so as to overcome the sense of deprivation among the people of Balochistan by offering them thousands of jobs and allocated millions of funds for the development and better infrastructure of the province (Khan, H. et al 2017). Furthermore, he also provided great space for religious political parties and reduced the role of nationalistic politicians, he used religious powers so that they could be galvanized in afghan war against Soviet Union. In 1988 election ppp was the only largest party which was established a federal government and benzir Bhutto was appointed as prime minister of Pakistan. 1988-1999 although the prime minister was called the chief authoritarian but the power of the center was president house and in almost all the election the religious parties were used for different alliances for the formation of governments and other purposes and national parties were have made inroads in to the provinces and national politics (Latif, M. I., et al 2000).

Zia-Ul-Haq Regime and Balochistan from 1978 to late 80s:

Zia 's government took serious action in order to over the sense of deprivation among the people of Balochistn ,for the this purpose Gen zia on May 3,1978 called Baloch leaders to Rawalpindi so as to discuss the issues of Balochistan .Ghus baksh bizenjo met with general zia and tolled chief martial law administrator regarding the issues of Balochistan he briefly argued the setbacks of past military operations in Balochistan and resultantly raised hater against the center he explained the heavy loss of property and human life during the operation .he also suggested for the conduction of general election in the province so as to bring democratic government in the province(Mayaram, S.et al (2004).general zia after a long discussion with bezinjo accepted that military operation is not the solution of Balochistan issue instead he disbanded Hyderabad tribunal , he stopped the operation which were operating against the militant groups in Balochistan and announced general reprieve to all those people who took arms against the center and started war against the army .this general amnesty brought the some peace full ness more over he also allocated

funds for the infrastructure of Balochistan and established different departments so as to bring Balochistan in national integrity.

Rahimuddin as Governor in 1977:

Rahim Uddin was lieutenant general and he was appointed as governor of Balochistan when zia ul haq dismissed Bhutto's government and appointed him for being the in charge of Balochistan province. Rahim Uddin declared a general amnesty to all the separatists and the Baloch leader and invited them for table talks so as to improve the quality of life in Balochistan. Attaullah mengal was isolated from the affairs of province by Rahim Uddin as he was very active in conflict with federal government (Sylvia, J. G. et al (2012). Marri later said the Baloch independence movement was at peak when general gave a general amnesty and provided a platform of encounter the freedom fighters to quit the war this was a huge set back and diplomatic approach of rahimuddin for the elimination of conflict between the center and the province. Akbar bhugti having sided with tika khan and being sidelined by rahimuddin went into self-levied isolation (Majeed, G., et al (2014). being a governor he flourished the sense of development and initiated different mega projects in the province so as to eliminate the dispossession of Balochistan people and also gathered the people under the banner of one nation meanwhile with soviet invasion in Afghanistan he also urged the world for the allocation of foreign funds regarding Balochistan's development and about forty million dollars were allocated at the time Rahimuddin had resigned (Wolf, J. L. et al (1992). Sui gas was regularized with Pakistan petroleum limited by Rahim Uddin . He consolidated the then-contentious integration of Gwadar into Balochistan, which had earlier been notified as a district in 1977 Titus, P. alet (1998). he also urged for female education and established many schools of girls in dera bhugti district and allocated funds for female education in the province .he also started infrastructure programs like wise the extension of electricity to vast areas with sub soil water which included dera bhugti and marri areas (Ahmed, F. et al (1998). he administered the freeing up of resources towards education, created girls' incentive programs, and had several girls' schools built in the Dera Bugti District. As part of his infrastructure schemes, he also forced his way in extending electricity to vast areas with subsoil water (Ahmed, F. et al (1998).

The Exponential Upswing of Sectarianism:

Two types of politics prevailed in zia's regime the nationalist and the ethnic mind set parties. these later one was injected and being supported

by Zia so as to counter and reduce the influence of nationalist parties in the provinces like Balochistan and K.P.K. These parties were rivalry in these provinces and center became powered by the elite so as to divide and ruled but the rejection of ethnic parties in general election was the rejection of center in Balochistan. Baloch leaders rejected Islamic parties as they acknowledged for being the part of these parties will influence their struggle and would be more close to admit the policies of center for small provinces. the rejection of these parties were only based on the rejection of Islamabad politics not the Islamic doctrine (Grare, F. et al (2013). General Zia's action was greatly appreciated by the people of Balochistan as he provided a peace full environment for all the Baloch leaders and he pardoned all those who took arms against the center and this brought sustainable situation for the people of Balochistan till 2005 (Indicators, C. (2007).

1988 Election:

Nationalist parties emerged as significant forces. In the 1988 election, the combined vote for nationalist parties totaled 47.8 percent. It reached 51.74 percent in the 1990 elections (Indicators, C. (2007).

Conclusion:

Baluchistan issue is based on the concept of fundamental rights ,the province since the partition of Pakistan from India has been called as a 'political unstable piece of land' due to deprivation of their due rights in state affairs ,it has been ruined by sardari system under the supervision of state authorities ,it has been deprived of health and education facilities .the province has the countless capabilities for the development of whole country and promotion of peaceful society .the basic requirements for the elimination of pessimistic manners against the center and state agencies is to make available self-confidence for the people of Balochistan and assure them to be the part of their own resources .the separatist are never separatist till they feel to be unsatisfactory from their authorities. History has witnessed whenever the elected government of Balochistan has been dismissed by the federal authorities, they started a slogan of undemocratic behavior of center towards Balochistan and this phenomenon created haters among the people of the province against the center, resultantly provoked deadly wars and killing of innocent people. The federal government should provide full support to the provinces in their owing rights so it can play a pivotal role in the development of the country.

References:

- Abbas, Hassan (2005). Pakistan's Drift Into Extremism: Allah, the Army, and America's War on Terror. M.E. Sharpe. p. 79. ISBN 0-7656-1496-0.
- Ahmad, S. I. (1992). Balochistan: Its strategic importance. Royal Book Co...
- Ahmed, F. (1998). Ethnicity and politics in Pakistan (Vol. 294). Karachi: oxford university press.
- Ahmed, F. (1998). Ethnicity and politics in Pakistan (Vol. 294). Karachi: oxford university press.
- Akhtar, A. S. (2007). Balochistan versus Pakistan. Economic and Political Weekly, 73-79.
- Dashti, N. (2012). The Baloch and Balochistan: A historical account from the beginning to the fall of the Baloch State. Trafford Publishing.
- Grare, F. (2013). BALOCHISTAN. SOUTH ASIA.
- Hashmi, R. S. (2014). Ethnic Politics: An Issue to National Integration (The Case of Pakistan). South Asian Studies (1026-678X), 29(1).
- Indicators, C. (2007). Democracy & Governance. Human Rights, 6(5.04), 7-25.
- Jones, O. B. (2003). Pakistan: Eye of the storm. Yale University Press.
- Kemp, G. (2012). The East Moves West: India, China, and Asia's Growing Presence in the Middle East. Brookings Institution Press.
- Khan, H. U., & Ullah, S. (2017). Balochistan; ethno-nationalism and economic underdevelopment. Journal of the research society of Pakistan, 54(2).
- Khan, R. (Ed.). (1999). The American papers: secret and confidential India-Pakistan-Bangladesh documents, 1965-1973. Oxford University Press, USA.

- Latif, M. I., & Hamza, M. A. (2009). Ethnic Nationalism in Pakistan: A case study of Baloch Nationalism during Musharraf regime. *Pakistan Vision*, 10(1), 58.
- Majeed, G., & Hashmi, R. S. (2014). Baloch Resistance during Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Era: Causes and Consequences. *South Asian Studies*, 29(1), 321.
- Mayaram, S. (2004). *Against history, against state: Counter perspectives from the margins*. Orient Blackswan.
- Shah, M. A. (1997). *The Foreign Policy of Pakistan: Ethnic Impacts on Diplomacy 1971-1994*. IB Tauris.
- Sylvia, J. G. (2012). *Unequal citizens: Evolution of Baloch identity in Pakistan and Iran*. Dartmouth College.
- Titus, P. (1998). Honor the Baloch, buy the Pushtun: Stereotypes, social organization and history in Western Pakistan. *Modern Asian Studies*, 32(3), 657-687. "Tribal Politics in Balochistan 1947–1990" Conclusion (1990) p. 7.
- Wirsing, R. G. (2012). *Baloch nationalism and the geopolitics of energy resources: The changing context of separatism in Pakistan*. Lulu.com.
- Wolf, J. L. (1992). *The Indo-Pakistani Nuclear Issue: A US Policy Perspective*. NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL MONTEREY CA.18] Emma Duncan, *Breaking the Curfew*, (1989), p. 156