



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION OF PAKISTAN UNDER ASSASSINATION OF THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN: LIAQUAT ALI KHAN

Dr. Sohaib Mukhtar

Bahria University, Pakistan
sohaibmukhtar@gmail.com

Abstract

The First Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan was the most influential person in initial days of Pakistan after the death of the founder of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah on 11th September 1948. Liaquat Ali Khan was assassinated on 16th October 1951 at Rawalpindi while addressing a public rally. The assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan led Pakistan's democratic journey into non-democratic Governments which become the biggest hurdle in building Pakistan and empowerment of the people of Pakistan. This paper finds out reasons of his assassination, consequences of his assassination and lays down suggestions to be followed to achieve mission and vision of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan prescribed in Objectives Resolution passed by the first constituent assembly of Pakistan on 12th March 1949 under the leadership of the First Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan.

Purpose – This research is an analysis of the life of the first Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan, his services for Pakistan and his sudden death due to assassination on 16th October 1951 under the light of social, political, and legal perspective to find out consequences and effects of his assassination on politics of Pakistan and recommend solutions to come out of the consequences Pakistan is still facing and never come out of it after his assassination by following footsteps of founding fathers of Pakistan as enunciated in Objectives Resolution passed by the first constituent assembly of Pakistan on 12th March 1949.

Design/methodology/approach – This study is routed in qualitative method of research to analyze, examine, review, and inquire into the life and assassination of the first Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan under the light of social, political, historical, and legal perspective as well as his efforts to formulate and lay down principles for future Constitution of Pakistan enunciated under his leadership in Objectives Resolution passed by the first constituent assembly of Pakistan on 12th March 1949.

Finding – This study would help people of the world generally and people of Pakistan specially to understand the life and assassination of the first Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan, his services for the motherland with founding fathers of Pakistan, effects and consequences of his assassination Pakistan have been facing since 16th October 1951. A proper inquiry to inquire into the assassination of Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan should be conducted and strong steps should be taken for strengthening democratic institutions and norms in the society. Objectives Resolution should be executed as will of the first Prime Minister of Pakistan and should be followed thoroughly to strengthen Islamic, Cultural, Political, Ethical, Social norms in the society to make Pakistan a better place as the first Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan wanted Pakistan to be a truly Democratic Social Welfare Islamic State to be a role model for the world.

Research limitations/implications – This study is an analysis of the life and assassination of the first Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan and its social, political and legal consequences on Pakistan under Historical Perspective. This research will not go into detailed analysis of his entire life,

services as political leader in British India and other connected matters as this research sticks into his life and assassination and its consequences on politics in Pakistan.

Practical implications – This study aims to point out implications due to assassination of the first Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan on Pakistan and politics of Pakistan as well as this study intends to give suggestions to be followed to achieve goals which Liaquat Ali Khan and founding fathers of Pakistan set for Pakistan to make Pakistan Democratic Social Welfare Islamic State.

Originality/Value – This study is original and personal work of the author on the chosen topic and there are only a few articles written on related topic but not particular on the chosen topic and this research is carried out keeping in mind principles of piracy and methods of doing illegal research.

Keywords: Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan, Objectives Resolution, Islamic Law.

Research type: general review.

Introduction

Liaquat Ali Khan was born on 1st October 1895 in British India. After initial education in British India, he went to United Kingdom for higher education. He returned back to British India and joined All India Muslim League in 1923. He started to raise his voice for the rights of minority Muslims of India. He was elected member of Provincial Assembly in 1926 and later elected member in 1940 and 1945-46 elections of Central Legislative Assembly.

Liaquat Ali Khan with his second wife Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan encouraged Muhammad Ali Jinnah to return back to British India to strive and struggle for separate land of Muslims in British India. Liaquat Ali Khan was elected General Secretary of India. On 23rd March 1940 All India Muslim League under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed resolution to strive and struggle for separate Muslim land in British India.

Pakistan came into being on 14th August 1947 and Liaquat Ali Khan was elected as its first Prime Minister and Muhammad Ali Jinnah as its first Governor General. Liaquat Ali Khan and Muhammad Ali Jinnah encouraged scientists, engineers and educationalists to come to Pakistan to make a road map for future policies of Pakistan.

The most significant work of Liaquat Khan is the Objectives Resolution which was passed by the first constituent assembly of Pakistan in 1949. It laid down principles for future Constitution of Pakistan. Later it was made preamble of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 and its operative part in 1985 under article 2A.

The Objectives Resolution is the most important legislative document in legal history of Pakistan. All Constitutions of Pakistan embodied principles laid down in the Objectives Resolution as well as the text of the Objectives Resolution have been made preamble of all Constitutions of Pakistan.

Liaquat Ali Khan faced opposition by socialists of Pakistan when he introduced economic policy of Pakistan based on capitalism and joined United States of America rather than joining Soviet Union. Socialists of Pakistan with the help of Major General Akbar Khan planned a coup against the government of Liaquat Ali Khan in 1951 which was unsuccessful.

United States of America asked military support from Pakistan in South Korea and demanded military basis in Pakistan to keep an eye on Soviet Union. Liaquat Ali Khan refused thus United States of America due to unhappiness tried to hire Pashtuns to assassinate him.

India was also unhappy with Liaquat Ali Khan as after first war on Kashmir issue in 1947-48, a ceasefire agreement solemnized but India was unwilling to fulfill its promise to organize plebiscite in Kashmir. Liaquat Ali Khan ordered Army Chief Ayub Khan to sort out the issue of Kashmir through military operation.

Liaquat Ali Khan was assassinated by Said Akbar on 16th October 1951 in Rawalpindi. Said Akbar fired two bullets on Liaquat Ali Khan and a man behind Said Akbar assassinated Said Akbar immediately at the spot.

After assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan, two more important assassinations took place in Pakistan: one is of the President Zia ul Haq in 1988 and another one is of Benazir Bhutto in 2007. A comprehensive inquiry, investigation, trial required to be conducted to sort out these mysterious assassinations of important political figures of Pakistan to save Pakistan from future disaster as these mysterious assassinations badly effected Pakistan's foreign policy, economic policy and other state policies.

This study is general review of life and assassination of the first Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan and consequences Pakistan have been facing due to assassination of Liaquat Ali Khan on 16th October 1951.

Liaquat Ali Khan

Liaquat Ali Khan was the first Prime Minister of Pakistan from 14th August 1947 until his death on 16th October 1951. He is known as Quaid-e-Millat/leader of the nation and Shaheed-e-Millat/Martyr of the nation. He faced a lot of hurdles during initial days of Pakistan as after the death of the founder and the first Governor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah on 11th September 1948, Liaquat Ali Khan was the most influential personality in Pakistani politics until his assassination on 16th October 1951. He faced criticism by leftists and communists when he opted to join United States of America rather than Soviet Union (Hasan, 1951).

Liaquat Ali Khan after completion of his higher studies in England, returned back to India and joined All India Muslim League in 1923 under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and gave his ideas for betterment of the struggle for the rights of Muslim minority of British India. Liaquat Ali Khan participated in Provincial Legislative Assembly Elections in 1926 and won his seat from Muzaffarnagar. Later, he was elected Deputy President of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1932 (Zaidi, 2010).

Liaquat Ali Khan entered Federal Level Politics and participated in 1940 elections of Legislative Assembly and spoke, struggle for the rights of Muslim minority of British India in front of British rulers and their Hindu representatives. Liaquat Ali Khan and his second wife Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan played important part to bring back Muhammad Ali Jinnah to Indian Politics as after the first round table conference held in England in 1930, Muhammad Ali Jinnah permanently settled in England and quit politics but rejoined All India Muslim League to struggle for separate land of Muslims of India (Wolpert, 1984).

Liaquat Ali Khan was elected as General Secretary of All India Muslim League in 1936 and also Deputy Parliamentary Leader of All India Muslim League. On 23rd March 1940 in a meeting held at Minto Park Lahore, All Muslim League passed a resolution to start struggle, strive for separate country of Muslims of India as Hindu dominated leaders of India in their recent Government deprived Muslims to practice their lives in accordance with their religion Islam (Hayat, 1991).

Liaquat Ali Khan won Central Legislative Council seat in 1940 and 1945 elections held in British India. All India Muslim League won 87% of seats allocated for Muslims of India denoting that All India Muslim League is the only political party which represents Muslim minority population of India which has already demanded a separate land for Muslims of India. After elections held in 1945-46 an interim government took place with some members from All India Muslim League and some from Indian National Congress. Liaquat Ali Khan was appointed as Finance Minister in that interim cabinet (Khan, 2005).

On 3rd June 1947, Lord Mountbatten accepted the idea for a separate land for Muslims of India thus on 14th August 1947 under Indian Independence Act 1947 Pakistan came into being as Muhammad Ali Jinnah took oath as the first Governor General of Pakistan and Liaquat Ali Khan took oath as the first Prime Minister of Pakistan. Pakistan was separated into East and West parts. The East Pakistan was dominated by communists and West Pakistan was dominated by Socialists (Belokrenitsky & Moskalenko, 2013).

Liaquat Ali Khan faced internal unrest and he opted to visit United States of America rather than visiting Soviet Union. He also faced challenges from Indian side on Kashmir issue, India attacked on Kashmir and that battle end on ceasefire agreement 1948-49. Indian Prime Minister dragged issue of Kashmir to United Nations and pledged that a plebiscite will take place in Kashmir and people of Kashmir will be given right to choose either to go with Pakistan or with India but this promise never fulfilled (Mukhtar, 2019).

Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan asked renowned personalities to make policies of Pakistan in the field of education, physics, mathematics, and science. Liaquat Ali Khan brought Muslim engineers and scientists from India to make a strong road map in their fields for future of Pakistan. Liaquat Ali Khan with the recommendation of the then Finance Minister Malik Ghulam Muhammad introduced 5 year economic policy based on capitalism as on the other hand Nehru went on to introduce Indian economic policy based on socialism (Lewis, 1969).

Liaquat Ali Khan faced criticism by socialists by joining hands with capitalist government of United States of America. Soviet Union leader Joseph Stalin sent an invitation to Liaquat Ali Khan to visit Soviet Union. Later United States of America sent an invitation. Liaquat Ali Khan chose to visit United States of America in May 1950 setting foreign policy of Pakistan closest to United States of America rather than Soviet Union. Liaquat Ali Khan asked United States of America to support Pakistan financially but the relationship deteriorated when United States of America asked military help from Pakistan in South Korea and Liaquat Ali Khan refused (Kundi, 2009).

Liaquat Ali Khan was asked to provide military bases to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of United States of America to keep an eye on Soviet Union but Liaquat Ali Khan refused. Liaquat Ali Khan also asked General Ayub Khan to sort out Kashmir dispute once in for all through military operation. United States of America disliking Liaquat Ali Khan hiring Pashtun to assassinate Liaquat Ali Khan promising Pashtun for interdependent state of Pashtuns (Kazimi, 2003).

Liaquat Ali Khan was addressing a public gathering at Company Bagh Rawalpindi when an assassin named Said Akbar shot him twice on his chest. He was shot dead reciting 'O Almighty Allah please save and protect Pakistan' (Hali, 2010).

Company Bagh was later renamed with Liaquat Bagh in honor of the first Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan. May Allah Almighty grant him heaven!

Objectives Resolution

The most dynamic work initiated by the first Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan was moving the Objectives Resolution before the first constituent assembly of Pakistan on 7th March 1949. After heated discussion between Muslim majority members of the first constituent assembly of Pakistan and minority members, the Objectives Resolution was unanimously passed on 12th March 1949. The Objectives Resolution laid down basic Islamic, Cultural, Political, Ethical, and Social norms to be embodied in future Constitution of Pakistan (Ahmad, 2018).

First of all the Objectives Resolution declares Pakistan an Islamic country by stating that sovereignty belongs to Allah Almighty alone. Sovereign is an entity which is followed by others and not following others thus Allah Almighty is the only entity which is followed by others and not following others (Paul, 1962).

Secondly, the Objectives Resolution states that the state of Pakistan is sacred trust, legislature, executive and judiciary are trustees and people of Pakistan are beneficiaries. Trust includes author, trustee and beneficiary. Pakistan is declared trust where public representatives in legislature and executive as well as judges in judiciary are trustees and public at large are beneficiaries (Rahman, 1973).

Thirdly, the Objectives Resolution states that the State of Pakistan is required to exercise powers and authority through chosen representatives of people within limits prescribed by Allah Almighty in Holy Quran and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in Sunnah (Mukhtar, 2017).

Fifthly, the Objectives Resolution states that Muslims of Pakistan are allowed and encouraged to order their lives in accordance with teachings and requirements of Islam as set out in Holy Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (Shah, 1987).

Sixthly, the Objectives Resolution states that principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam shall be fully observed in the state of Pakistan (Rahman, 1970).

Furthermore, the Objectives Resolution states that adequate provisions will be made for protections of minorities so that they may freely profess and practice their religion and develop their culture in the state of Pakistan (Raza, 2017).

The Objectives Resolution states about provincial autonomy that all units of the Federation shall be autonomous within such limitations and boundaries on their authority and powers as may be prescribed. Independence, integrity and all other sovereign rights on air, land, and sea shall be fully safeguarded (Mukhtar, 2016).

The Objectives Resolution guaranteed freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom of belief, faith and worship, right to profess, practice and propagate religion as well as Social, Economic and Political Justice without any discrimination as to caste, race, religion, and place of birth (Choudhury, 1969).

The Objectives Resolution also guaranteed freedom of association, freedom of trade, business, profession, equality of citizenship, equality of status, right to life, liberty as well as equality of opportunity so that people of Pakistan may attain their rightful place amongst nations of the World and make their full contribution towards international peace, prosperity, progress and happiness of humanity (Choudhry, 2012).

All fundamental rights guaranteed in the Objectives Resolution later embodied and guaranteed under the first Constitution of Pakistan 1956, the second Constitution of Pakistan 1962 and the current Constitution of Pakistan 1973 (Lau, 2006).

The Objectives Resolution guaranteed fundamental rights which are also guaranteed under the current Constitution of Pakistan 1973 including (i) protection of language and culture, (ii) protection against discrimination in services, (iii) right to access public places, (iv) right of education, (v) rule of law, (vi) protection of property rights, (vii) right to acquire, hold, and dispose of property, (viii) protection against compulsory attendance of religious institution, (ix) protection against imposed religious taxation, (x) freedom of religion, (xi) right to information, (xii) freedom of speech, (xiii) freedom of trade, business, and profession, (xiv) freedom of association, (xv) freedom of assembly, (xvi) freedom of movement, (xvii) protection of home against torture, (xviii) protection against jeopardy and self-incrimination, (xix) protection against retrospective punishment, (xx) protection against slavery and forced

labor, (xxi) right of due process and fair trial, (xxii) protection against illegal detention, and (xxiii) protection of life and liberty.

Though these fundamental rights are embodied in the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 but implementation of these fundamental rights requires an independent judiciary and strong administration thus the Government of Pakistan is suggested to make sure implementation of these fundamental rights which are guaranteed in the Objectives Resolution later embodied in the Constitution of Pakistan 1973.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Liaquat Ali Khan was the first Prime Minister of Pakistan joined All India Muslim League in 1923 and elected as General Secretary of All India Muslim League in 1936. He was the most influential leader of Pakistani politics after the death of the first Governor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah on 11th September 1948.

Liaquat Ali Khan had two options either to join hands with United States of America or go towards Soviet Union. He opted to join capitalist government of United States of America as the first five year economic plan of Pakistan was also based on capitalism. Socialists of Pakistan were unhappy with Liaquat Ali Khan thus an unsuccessful coup called Rawalpindi Conspiracy were initiated by socialists with the help of Major General Akbar Khan.

Liaquat Ali Khan relationship with United States of America deteriorated when he refused to send military troops in support of United States of America in South Korea and also refused to give military bases in Pakistan to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of United States of America to keep an eye on Soviet Union.

Soviet Union was also unhappy with Liaquat Ali Khan as he opted to join United States of America. On the other hand India was smelling another war with Pakistan on Kashmir issue as Liaquat Ali Khan asked newly appointed Army Chief Ayub Khan to settle Kashmir issue once in for all. There are reports that the United States of America were hiring Pashtuuns to assassinate Liaquat Ali Khan.

On 16th October 1951 Liaquat Ali Khan was assassinated by Pashtun Said Akbar while the first Prime Minister of Pakistan was addressing a public gathering at Company Bagh later known as Liaquat Bagh. The last words of Liaquat Ali Khan were: May Allah Almighty protect Pakistan. The assassin Said Akbar was immediately shot dead at the spot.

A comprehensive inquiry and investigation never conducted, later two more major leaders of Pakistan assassinated namely Zia ul Haq in 1988 and Benazir Bhutto in 2007. It is suggested that a complete and comprehensive inquiry and investigation should be conducted and culprits, abettors, conspirators should be given exemplary punishments after trial to prevent mysterious assassinations of important personalities and public figures of Pakistan in future.

It is also suggested that the Objectives Resolution passed by the first constituent assembly of Pakistan on 12th March 1949 under the leadership of Liaquat Ali Khan laid down principles for future constitution and laws of Pakistan should be implemented in true spirit as will of the founding fathers of Pakistan to make Pakistan Islamic Social Welfare State to be a role model for rest of the world.

References

Ahmad, U. (2018). *The Evolution of the Role of the Objectives Resolution in the Constitutional Paradigm of Pakistan: From the Framers' Intent to a Tool for Judicial Overreach*. Lahore University of Management Sciences Law Journal, 5(1), 50-60.

- Belokrenitsky, V. I., & Moskalenko, V. N. (2013). *A Political History of Pakistan, 1947-2007*. Oxford University Press, Pakistan.
- Choudhry, S. A. (2012). *Constitutional History of Pakistan*. PLD Publishers. Lahore, Pakistan.
- Choudhury, G. W. (1969). *Constitutional Development in Pakistan*. Longman, London, UK.
- Hali, S. M. (2010). Liaquat Ali Khan-An Unheralded Founding Father of Pakistan. *Criterion, Rawalpindi, Pakistan*, 5(1), 132-169.
- Hayat, S. (1991). *Aspects of the Pakistan Movement*. National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Center of Excellence, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Hasan, K. S. (1951). *The Foreign Policy of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan*. *Pakistan Horizon*, 4(4), 181-199.
- Khan, H. (2005). *Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan*. Oxford University Press, USA.
- Kundi, M. A. (2009). US Pakistan's relations under Khan 1958-69: Impact on South Asia. *A Research Journal of South Asian Studies*, 24(2), 192-203.
- Kazimi, M. R. (2003). *Liaquat Ali Khan: his life and work*. Oxford University Press, USA.
- Lau, M. (2006). *The Role of Islam in the Legal System of Pakistan (Chapter 3: Article 2A and the Objectives Resolution)*. London-Leiden Series on Law, Administration and Development. Brill Nijhoff. Leiden, Netherlands.
- Lewis, S. R. (1969). *Economic Policy and Industrial Growth in Pakistan*. Allen & Unwin, London, UK.
- Mukhtar, S. (2019) Social Transformation of Pakistan under Kashmir Dispute. *Social Transformation in Contemporary Society, Lithuania. Mykolas Romeris University*, 7, 36-45.
- Mukhtar, S. (2017). Social Transformation of Pakistan under the Objectives Resolution. *Social Transformation in Contemporary Society. Lithuania. Mykolas Romeris University*, 5, 67-77.
- Mukhtar, S. (2016). Social Transformation of Pakistan under the Constitution of 1973. *Social Transformations in Contemporary Society. Lithuania. Mykolas Romeris University*, 4, 47-59.
- Paul S. (1962). *Islam and the Constitution of Pakistan*. *World Affairs*. 125 (2), 92-96.
- Raza, S. S. (2017). *Contested Space of the Objectives Resolution in the Constitutional Order of Pakistan*. *Islamabad Policy Research Institute Journal*. 17(2), 1-19.
- Rahman. F. (1973). Islam and the New Constitution of Pakistan. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*. 8(3), 190-204.
- Rahman. F. (1970). *Islam and the Constitutional Problem of Pakistan*. *Studia Islamica*. 32(2), 275-287.
- Shah, N. H. (1987). The Objectives Resolution and its Impact on the Administration of Justice in Pakistan. *Islamic Studies*, 26(4), 383-394
- Wolpert, S. A. (1984). *Jinnah of Pakistan*. Oxford University Press, USA.
- Zaidi, S. M. Z. (2010). The Assassination of the Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan: the fateful journey. *Pakistan Journal of History and Culture*, 31(1), 72-100.

