

1. Question No 1: The Bengalis of West Bengal fought hard to keep the Bengal province united in 1905 but the same Bengalis strongly opposed the concept of a united Bengal during the partition of 1947. What were the likely reasons for their changing political disposition?

**Answer:**

- In 1905, Bengal was divided by the British, ostensibly for administrative reasons, but with a hidden agenda to weaken Hindu-Muslim solidarity and implement a divide-and-rule policy.
- This division threatened the privileged position of higher-class Hindus in West Bengal, leading to strong opposition among them.
- Two parallel movements, the Swadeshi and Boycott movements, were launched in protest, with the Congress taking a leading role and attempting to replicate these movements across India.
- During World War I, when the Khilafat delegation sought support from Indian Muslims, Jinnah remained indifferent, seeing no practical implications for South Asian Muslims.
- Gandhi's non-cooperation movement, joined with the Khilafat movement, aimed at a Pan-Indian movement.
- The failure of these movements, notably due to the Chauri Chaura incident, led to disillusionment.
- Jinnah's frustration with Indian politics grew, leading him to participate in the Round Table conferences in London.
- The deadlock between communities was broken by the British with the Communal Award, which granted minority communities voting rights and constituencies.

- The 1935 Act facilitated elections in 1936-1937, where the Congress overwhelmingly won, including in Bengal.
- However, Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, with a coalition with the Muslim League, formed a government in united Bengal, favoring lower-class Muslims, which irked the upper class.
- Sher-e-Bangla also presented the Lahore Resolution, advocating for the division of India based on the two-nation theory.
- These developments made Hindus skeptical, shifting their mindset from supporting a united Bengal to preferring to stay under Hindu leadership in India.

2. Question No 2. Enumerate the initial challenges the newly independent Pakistan had been facing in the aftermath of the 1947 partition.

Answer:

- Inter communal riot, violence, huge refugee, crisis due to cross-border transfer of Hindu-Muslim population from either side.
- Conflict between India and Pakistan based on the accession of Kashmir.
- Very irrational distribution of wealth particularly the armed forces. Pakistan got 1/3 of the entire British-Indian Army.
- The early debate over the language issue was very significant that it changed the course of action subsequently.
- Another important aspect was the delay in Constitution writing as under any format East Pakistanis would come in power based on their numerical superiority of which the Pakistani politicians were very much threatened.
- Poor governance as the important politicians who led Pakistan came from India.
- Those who joined from West Pakistan were feudal landlords and had no connection with the land and people of the newly born country.
- Over centralized government since Jinnah was not elected by the people rather he was ruling the country using 1935 Act.

- Rise of anti-Muslim league platform under leadership of Bhasani who eventually formed the Awami Muslim league
- 1952, after lot of blood and sacrifice the Bangla was adopted as one of the state languages of Pakistan.
- It eventually reinforced the spirit of Bengali nationalism.
- Provincial election in East Pakistan and the formation of united front that won over the election under the leadership of Awami League.
- This wasn't expected by the Pakistani ruling clique.
- West Pakistani rulers unmasked their real face by removing the United Front government.
- These were the initial issues that the Pakistani government had been facing in the formative years.

### 3. Question no: How language movement impacted the growth of the political movement that eventually led to the independence war of 1971?

#### Answer:

- The Pakistani government wanted everyone to speak Urdu, but most people in East Pakistan spoke Bengali, which caused problems.
- Bengalis felt left out because they couldn't use Bengali in schools, jobs, and daily life.
- They fought for Bengali to be recognized as an official language, known as the Language Movement.
- When they won the right to use Bengali, it made them proud and united.
- The Language Movement made people more interested in politics and they formed a group called the United Front, winning a big election in 1954.
- But the Pakistani government didn't accept the election results, leading to anger and desire for more freedom among East Pakistanis.

- This pride in Bengali identity and desire for rights led to protests against leaders like General Ayub Khan.
- During the 1965 war between India and Pakistan, East Pakistanis felt unprotected and wanted more independence.
- They started the Six-Point Movement, which the Pakistani government tried to suppress with the Agartala conspiracy case.
- Despite government efforts, the Bengalis continued their movement, leading to mass upheaval in 1969.
- Ayub Khan stepped down, handing power to General Yahya Khan, who held an election in 1970. The Awami League won, largely due to the momentum generated by the Language Movement.
- This journey, driven by the Language Movement, ultimately led to the fight for independence in 1971.

#### 4. Question no 4: Why was the constitution making so important in making post-partition Pakistan and how did the Pakistani Government misuse the constitution to serve their interest?

Answer:

- A constitution is like a rulebook that protects the rights of citizens in a country.
- Without a written constitution, people have no official document to refer to for their rights.
- Unfortunately, in Pakistan, politicians took a long time, nine years in fact, to write their first constitution.
- This delay happened because the country's founder, Jinnah, wanted a strong central government like the one in the 1935 India Act. This way of governing didn't need general elections.
- Another problem was that the initial Pakistani government was weak and disconnected from the people.

- Politicians from West Pakistan were mostly wealthy landowners, while those from East Pakistan represented the majority but had less power.
- No matter what, Bengalis would likely gain power because of their larger population.
- Writing the constitution would mean holding elections, so the process was delayed until 1956.
- The first constitution changed Pakistan into an Islamic state where the president had a lot of power, which was a big shift.
- Because of the constitution, an election was needed right away.
- Iskander Mirza, fearing Bengali politicians might win, wanted to stop the election by declaring martial law.
- This move backfired, as the military took control instead.
- Ayub Khan, realizing Mirza's mistake, quickly removed him from power and sent him into exile.
- Ayub then held a referendum and introduced Basic Democracy to avoid direct elections, consolidating power under himself.
- He wrote a new constitution that gave him even more control over the country.

5. Question: How did the establishment of the Awami league add impetus to the ongoing nationalistic movement in erstwhile East Pakistan?

Answer:

- After the 1947 partition, people in East Pakistan didn't have political rights. Without a political party, it's hard to make sure everyone's needs are heard.
- Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani returned from Assam and started the Awami Muslim League to stand up to the Pakistani rulers.

- The Awami Muslim League boosted the ongoing language movement's energy.
- In 1949, the Awami Muslim League turned the language movement into a bigger fight for social, economic, and political rights.
- Before the 1954 United Front election, the party changed its name to Awami League to include people from all backgrounds.
- The United Front, led by Sher-e-Bangla A. K. Fazlul Huq, won big in the 1954 election, but the Pakistani government didn't accept the results.
- This showed that West Pakistani politicians didn't want to share political power with East Pakistanis.
- In 1956, after the first constitution was adopted, Iskandar Mirza worried that Bengalis might win future elections. So, he declared martial law to stop them.
- Ayub Khan quickly took power from Mirza.
- The Awami League led movements against Ayub Khan, demanding more rights.
- Ayub Khan changed the constitution to give himself more power.
- After the 1965 war, East Pakistani politicians saw that the government in West Pakistan ignored them. They launched the Six-Point Movement for more autonomy, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- To slow down the movement, the government accused Rahman and others in the Agartala conspiracy case.
- Even though Rahman was jailed, students continued the movement.
- Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani joined to free Rahman.
- In 1969, mass protests forced Ayub Khan to give power to Yahya Khan.
- Yahya Khan called for elections. Awami League won, but there was a dispute over power.
- To solve it, Operation Searchlight was launched, starting the war for independence.

**6. Question: Describe the reasons and consequences of General Ayub Khan's Martial Law.**

Answer:

- After India's partition, there was a heated dispute over Kashmir, as Pakistan feared for Muslims and India for minorities if it went to the other side.
- Pakistan attempted military intervention in Kashmir, but Liaquat Ali Khan ordered a halt, with General Gracey opposed to it.
- Meanwhile, there was a power struggle in Pakistan, with four contenders vying for the top army position.
- Iskander Mirza, the Defense secretary, controversially promoted Ayub Khan, causing unrest among senior officers.
- The deaths of influential politicians like Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan created an environment where lesser politicians aligned with civil-military bureaucrats, paving the way for military dominance.
- Mirza aimed to align with West Pakistan and suppress East Pakistan, with Ayub Khan's promotion serving his agenda.
- When the 1956 constitution made Mirza president, he declared martial law, inadvertently granting absolute power to the military.
- Ayub Khan seized control, becoming president, and ruled by restricting people's rights.
- He consolidated all power through a constitution under his dictate that favored him, and arresting opposition politicians.
- Consequences of martial law:
  - People suffered political and economic oppression.
  - They had minimal influence over military decisions.
  - The Six-Point Movement ultimately ended martial law.

7. Discuss the reasons behind Russia and China's split which had a profound impact on the polarization of power before our independence war.

Answer: Reasons behind Russia and China's split:

- After the 1947 partition, there was a power gap in Southeast Asia.
- Following World War II, the USA and USSR emerged as superpowers.
- The USA was strong economically and had nuclear weapons, while the USSR had a large territory.
- At the same time, China was rising as a major power.
- Both China and Russia were communist countries in the same area.
- Initially, they were friends, but their relationship soured over time.

Reasons for the split:

- China felt Russia was not sticking to true communism.
- Russia sold weapons to India, which China saw as a betrayal during conflicts.
- Russia didn't support China in conflicts with Taiwan and Korea.
- The Cuban Missile Crisis strained their relationship.
- In the 1962 war, Russia supported India, not just China.
- During the 1965 conflict, when the USA stopped helping Pakistan, China stepped in.
- The USA saw an opportunity in the split and became friends with China.

These are the main reasons behind the split between Russia and China.



8. Write down the issues of the six-point movement.

Answer:

The Six Point program included:

**First point**, the constitutional structure and the nature of the state:

The constitutional structure of the country should be such that Pakistan would be a federation-based United Nations and its basis would be the Lahore resolution. The government will be parliamentary type. The power of the Legislatures will be sovereign. And this council will also be elected by direct popular vote on the basis of universal suffrage.

**Second point**, the power of the central government:

The powers of the central government will be limited to only two areas-national defence and foreign policy. In all other respects, the power of the member states will be absolute.

**Third point**, currency or monetary power:

Regarding currency, one of the following two proposals can be accepted: -

(A) There will be two separate, yet freely exchangeable currencies for the whole country.

Or

(B) Under the present rules, only one currency can be in circulation for the whole country. However, in that case, the regime should have effective measures to stop the smuggling of capital from East Pakistan to West Pakistan. In this case, a separate banking reserve should be established for East Pakistan and a separate monetary policy should be introduced for East Pakistan.

**Fourth point**, power of revenue collection:

The states of the federation will have sovereign power over the imposition of taxes or duties. The central government will not have the power to impose any tax. However, the central government will be entitled to a portion of the state revenue to meet the necessary expenditure. The central government's fund will be made up of the same percentage of all state taxes collected at the same rate.

**Fifth point, foreign trade:**

- (A) Separate accounts of foreign trade for each State of the Federation shall be maintained.
- (B) Foreign exchange earned through foreign trade will remain under the jurisdiction of the States.
- (C) The demand for foreign exchange required for the Center will be met by the States at the same rate or at a more unanimous rate.
- (D) There shall be no tariff or tax-restrictive restrictions on the movement of domestic goods between the member states.
- (E) The constitution should give the states the power to send their trade representatives abroad and to conclude trade agreements in their own interest.

**Sixth point, power to form paramilitary:**

In order to maintain regional cohesion and governance, the constitution must give member states the power to form and maintain paramilitary or regional armies under their authority.

9. Write about the bio-polar security architecture centering Bangladesh Independence war including the role of Super Powers.

**Answer:**

- After World War II, two big countries emerged: the USA and the USSR (Soviet Union).

- They were powerful because they made a lot of weapons and helped in the war.
- After the war, there was tension between them, called the Cold War. Many countries picked sides, either with the USA or the USSR.
- In 1947, British India got independence and split into two: India and Pakistan.
- Around the same time, China became strong like the USSR, and both were communist.
- During the Cold War, China and the USSR didn't get along, which made them weak.
- In 1962, there was a war between China and India. Russia supported India, which made China upset.
- In 1965, during a war between India and Pakistan, the USA stopped giving weapons to Pakistan. So, China helped by giving them weapons.
- The split between the USSR and China made the USA happy.
- During Bangladesh's independence movement, the USA and China helped Pakistan, while Russia supported Bangladesh.
- Russia thought Bangladesh becoming independent would weaken the USA and China.
- At the end, the USA tried to get help from the UN, but Russia always said no.
- When nothing worked, the USA sent ships to the Bay of Bengal, but India's army reached Dhaka first.
- This was how the strategic alliance formed during Bangladesh's independence war in 1971.

10. What is Operation Searchlight? Briefly describe the military operations carried out in Dhaka by the Pakistan military.

Answer:

- Dhaka faced a big attack when the war began.
- The National Service Battalion, which trained students, didn't have good leaders.
- Operation Searchlight started on March 25th. The 57 Infantry Brigade went to Dhaka.
- Different units were sent to different places:
  - 18 Punjab went to Nawabpur
  - 32 Punjab went to disarm Bengali police at Rajarbagh
  - 22 Baluch went to deal with EPR members at Pilkhana
  - 13 Frontier Force secured Dhaka cantonment
  - 31 Field Regiment went to Mohammadpur-Mirpur
  - 43 Light Anti-aircraft regiment was at Tejgaon airport
- Commando troops raided Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's home
- They attacked civilian areas a lot, and many people got hurt.
- Important places like Dhaka University were attacked early with big guns.
- Even though people criticized them, the military kept going. They eventually caught Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Other units targeted places like Rajarbagh police line and Pilkhana. They fought back but the military took control.
- That night, many people were killed, and houses were burned. It showed how harsh the military was in Dhaka.
- Joydebpur, near Dhaka, had 2 East Pakistan revolting under Maj Shafiullah.
- They gathered in Mymensingh and then went to Brahmanbaria, fighting the Pakistani forces all through the war.