**First Regime of Benazir Bhutto (1988-1990):**

Benazir Bhutto occupies a unique place in the political history of Pakistan. Twice elected prime minister of the country. Benazir Bhutto took the charge of becoming the first Prime Minister of Pakistan on 1 December, 1988 thus becoming the first lady head of government of a Muslim country. Although she inherited her father’s party, the PPP. Under the agreement, PPP nominated Ghulam Ishaque Khan its candidate for fourth coming presidential election. Consequently he won the elections and became the President for the next term of five years.

The party won a very narrow plurality in the 1988 elections and was therefore forced to enter into a coalition with the MQM and several other parties in order to form a government. Initially on December 2, Benazir Bhutto formed a coalition government with MQM. To maintain her power and implement her programs, Benazir would have needed to maneuver successfully between a powerful president and the military elite and to reach a political accommodation with MQM and Nawaz Sharif. Instead, she pursued a course of confrontation, including unsuccessful efforts to overthrow Nawaz in the provincial assembly. In addition, the failure of the PPP to share power and spoils with its coalition partners caused further alienation, including the withdrawal of the MQM from the government in October 1989. Benazir also faced not only the old problems of the political role of the military forces, the division of power between the central and provincial governments, and the role of Islam, but also pressing new ones, including a large budget deficit and growing ethnic violence. The first step of Benazir Bhutto’s Government was to release hundreds of political prisoners who were sentenced to various lengths of rigorous imprisonment by the previous Martial Law government.

Benazir took the office in the crucial decade of Cold war. During her first government, Benazir Bhutto’s foreign policy revolved around Afghanistan, India, and the United States. On the Western front, Benazir Bhutto also authorized further aggressive military operations in Afghanistan to topple the fragile communist regime and the Soviet influence in the region. She also wanted friendly relation with India. During her first time, Benazir Bhutto established the separate but integrated nuclear testing program in the atomic bomb program, thus establishing a nuclear testing program where the authorizations were required by the Prime minister and the military leadership.

Benazir Bhutto launched and supervised the clandestine project, Integrated research program (IRP) a missile program which remained under Benazir Bhutto’s watch and successfully ended in 1996. Pakistan’s first military satellite, *Badr-I* was also launched under her government through China. With launching of *Badr-I*, Pakistan under Benazir Bhutto, became the first Muslim country to have launch and placed the satellite in Earth’s orbit. She declared the “1990”, a year of space in Pakistan and conferred national awards to scientists and engineers who took participation in the development of this satellite.

*Midnight Jackal* was a political intelligence operation launched under President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the Chief of Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg, with the objectives to bring the vote of no confidence movement in the Parliament by bribing the members of Benazir’s own party. Because of the Semi-presidential system, Benazir needed permission from Khan for imposing new policies, which Khan vetoed as he seen to moderate or contradict to his point of view. Benazir, through her legislators, also attempted to shift parliamentary democracy to replace the semi-presidential system, but Khan’s constitutional powers always vetoed Benazir’s attempts. This brought power struggle between prime minister and president. The unemployment and labor strikes began to take place which halted and jammed the economic wheel of the country and Benazir Bhutto was unable to solve these issues due to in a cold war with the President. In November 1990, after a long political battle, Khan finally used the Eighth Amendment to dismiss Benazir Bhutto’s government following charges of corruption, nepotism, and despotism. Khan soon called for new elections in 1990 where Bhutto conceded her defeat.

**First Regime of Nawaz Sharif (1990-1993):**

Nawaz Sharif (born 25 December 1949) is a Pakistani politician and industrialist who has been Prime Minister of Pakistan twice after Benazir Bhutto. He served as Prime Minister for terms from November 1990 to July 1993. Nawaz Sharif is the president of Pakistan Muslim League (N). The IJI formed governments at the center and all the four provinces and Nawaz Sharif became the prime minister of the state.

Serving as the Leader of the Opposition during Benazir's second tenure, Sharif was re-elected Prime Minister with a historic two-thirds majority in parliament, after Benazir was again dismissed for corruption by new President Farooq Leghari. Sharif replaced Leghari with Rafiq Tarar as President, then stripped the Presidency of its powers by passing the Thirteenth Amendment.

Nawaz Sharif’s cabinet initially included eighteen ministers: nine from Punjab, two from the Islamabad Capital Territory, six from Sindh, and one from Balochistan. His cabinet was later expanded to include representation from the North-West Frontier Province. Of paramount importance to the new government was implementation of Nawaz Sharif’s program for strengthening the economy. Goals of the program included self-reliance, deregulation and denationalization, taxation reform, foreign- exchange and payment reform, administrative and law reform, and increases in agricultural productivity and exports. The government’s economic strategy rested on streamlining the institutional framework for industrialization and on starting a new partnership with the private sector in order to promote common objectives. Nawaz Sharif regarded unemployment as Pakistan’s major problem and believed it could be solved only by rapid industrialization. However, it also decided to dismiss all employees appointed by PPP government in grade 5 and above. He said his government was considering special incentives for rural industrialization and agro-based industries and was fully committed to a policy of deregulation.

Nawaz Sharif, during his first term, founded difficult working with PPP and the Mutahidda Qaumi Movement (MQM), a potent force in Karachi. The MQM and PPP opposed Sharif widely due to his focused on beautifying Punjab and Kashmir while neglecting Sindh. The clash between liberalism and conservatism soon forces soon erupted in 1992 when political tension began to arise in which both party renegading ideological war against each other. Nawaz Sharif’s government members passed the resolution in the Parliament, to launch the paramilitary operation to end the cold war between PML-N and MQM. Paramilitary operation in Sindh Province was Launched in 1992, violence erupted in Karachi and brought an economic halt in the country.

In 1993, Sharif survived serious constitutional crises when it was reported that Sharif developed serious issues over the authority with another national conservative President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Before 1993 Parliamentary election, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on 18 April 1993, with the support of the Pakistan Army, used his reserve powers (58-2b)  to dissolve the National Assembly, the lower house. Khan appointed Mir Blake Scher as the interim Prime Minister. Nawaz Sharif, moved to Supreme Court of Pakistan. In May 26, 1993, Sharif returned to power after the Supreme Court ruled that the Presidential Order as unconstitutional and reconstituted the National Assembly on its immediate effect.

In 1993, Nawaz Sharif developed serious issues over authority with president Ghulam Ishaq Khan. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on 18 April 1993, with the support of the Pakistan Army, used his reserve powers (58-2b) to dissolve the National Assembly. Khan appointed Mir Balakh Scher as the interim prime minister. Sharif forcefully rejected to accept this act and moved to Supreme Court of Pakistan, which overturned the president's decision.   
  
  
In 26 May 1993, Sharif returned to power after the Supreme Court ruled that the Presidential Order as unconstitutional and reconstituted the National Assembly on its immediate effect. The Court ruled, 10–1, that the president could dissolve the assembly only if a constitutional breakdown had occurred and that the government's incompetence or corruption was irrelevant.  
However, issues with the president over the authority circled and a subsequent political stand off was instigated between president and Prime minister.   
  
  
Finally, on July 1993, Sharif resigned under pressure from the Pakistan Armed Forces but negotiated a settlement that resulted in the removal of president Ghulam Ishaq Khan as well. In July 1993, Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Vahied Kakar and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Shamim Allam forced president Ishaq Khan to resign from the presidency and subsequently ended the political standoff.   
  
  
Under the close scrutiny of the Pakistan Armed Forces, the new interim and transitional government was formed and new parliamentary election were held after three months.  
  
  
New elections were held in 1993 and Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) came to power.

**Second Regime of Benazir Bhutto (1993-1996):**

National elections were held again in October 1993. In a close contest, the PPP won a plurality—though not a majority—of seats in the National Assembly; Nawaz Sharif’s new Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N) was a somewhat distant second, though his party received a slightly higher percentage of the popular vote. Fewer than half of registered voters cast a ballot, and election results were close throughout the country. Overall, however, Balochistan was the only province where the PPP failed to outdistance the PML-N. In alliance with Junejo’s Pakistan Muslim League (J) (PML-J), the PPP formed the new civilian government, and, after three years in the opposition, Benazir Bhutto returned to the premiership.

The PML-J helped the PPP take control of the Punjab, an objective that Bhutto could not attain in her earlier administration. Nonetheless, Nawaz Sharif’s party was able to form coalition provincial governments in Balochistan and the North-West Frontier Province. The power, however, was in Bhutto’s hands, and it was for her to determine the country’s course. Having spoken of democracy for so long, it was the prime minister’s task to realize what had escaped her grasp during her previous administration. Benazir Bhutto learned a valuable experience and lesson from the presidency of Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the presidential elections were soon called after her re-elect. After carefully examining the candidates, Benazir Bhutto decided to appoint Farooq Leghari as for her president, in which, Leghari sworned as 8th President of Pakistan on November 14, 1993 as well as first Baloch to have became president since the country’s independence. Yet, the country remained economically unstable, and Pakistanis were far from developing a genuine civil society.

When Benazer became the prime minister that was the time of great racial tension in Pakistan and If Bhutto’s government fails, everyone knows there will be no new elections. The army will take over.The racial violence in Karachi was reached at peak and became a biggest problem for Benazir Bhutto to counter. The MQM attempted to make an alliance with Benazir Bhutto under her own conditions, but Benazir Bhutto refused. Soon the second operation, *Operation Blue Fox* was launched to politically vanished the MQM from country’s political spectrum. The results of this operation remains inconclusive and resulted in thousands killed or gone missing, with majority contains Urdu-speaking.

Political crises both major and minor abounded, and Bhutto faced the added indignity of having a major family squabble spill over into the media when the prime minister’s brother Murtaza Bhutto accused her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, of corruption. The incident soon spun out of control, with Bhutto’s mother taking Murtaza’s side. The prime minister was able to do little to push her legislative agenda, and Nawaz Sharif released documents that cited Bhutto’s personal excesses; when the prime minister herself became embroiled in a banking scandal, it was almost impossible for her to mount a credible defense. President Leghari himself could not escape criticism, and it was alleged that he profited from a land deal that was linked to his PPP associations.

The corruption grew during her government, and her government became increasingly unpopular and corruption scandals became public. One of the most internationally and nationally reported scandals was the Agosta Submarine scandal. Benazir Bhutto was an economist by profession, she took the charge of economic and financial affairs on her hand. During her second term, Benazir Bhutto continued to follow former Prime minister Nawaz Sharif’s Privatization policies. The process of privatization of the nationalized industries was associated with the marked performance and improvement, especially the terms of labor productivity. However, the privatized money was avoided not spent on people’s living standard, and it was in 1997, when it was founded that the amount gained in privatization had gone somewhere else and it was no where to be found in government’s account.

Benazir Bhutto sought to strengthen the relations with socialist states, and Benazir Bhutto first visit Libya to strengthened the relations with then-Socialist Peoples Republic of Libya. Benazir Bhutto also strengthened relations with communist state Vietnam and visited Vietnam to sign the mutual trade and international political cooperation between both countries. She also wanted to have good relations with India but due to Kashmir issue and Indian nuclear programe she failed to get desired results.

During her second term, Benazir Bhutto’s relations with the Pakistan Armed Forces took a different and pro-Benazir approach, when she carefully appointed General Abdul Waheed as chief of Army Staff and other Army official. She worked with Army on different issues.

The year of 1996 was crucial for Benazir Bhutto’s policy on Afghanistan when Pakistan-backed extremely religious group, the Taliban, took power in Kabul in September 1996. It was during Benazir Bhutto’s rule that the Taliban gained prominence in Afghanistan and many of her government, including her authorization, had backed the Taliban for gaining the control of Afghanistan. She continued her father’s policy on Afghanistan taking aggressive measures to curb down the anti-Pakistan sentiments in Afghanistan. Under her government, Pakistan had recognized the Taliban regime as legitimate government in Afghanistan, allowing the Taliban to open an embassy in Islamabad. Moreover, in October 1995 some 40 army officers were arrested for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government and kill the president and prime minister.

Given the intensifying, Bhutto no longer saw eye to eye with President Leghari, and when he ignored her advice in dealing with the army high command and with changes in the Supreme Court, their relationship reached the breaking point. Leghari, uncomfortable with the constant intrigue, was ready to take direct action against Bhutto and her husband. That moment came in September 1996, when Benazir’s Brother Murtaza Bhutto was killed in a police shootout, and Asif Ali Zardari was accused of complicity in Murtaza’s death. In November, Leghari dismissed Bhutto’s government.

**Second Regime of Nawaz Sharif (1997-1999):**

Nawaz Sharif (born 25 December 1949) is a Pakistani politician and industrialist who has been Prime Minister of Pakistan twice after Benazir Bhutto. Previously he served as Prime Minister for terms from November 1990 to July 1993 and now February 1997 to October 1999. Sharif is the president of Pakistan Muslim League (N).

Elections were held on February 3, 1997. Pakistan Muslim League won with an overwhelming majority with absolutely light and slight opposition. The Muslim League was able to obtain a two-third majority in the National Assembly and Mian Nawaz Sharif was re-elected as Prime Minister. He obtained a vote of confidence from the National Assembly on February 18, 1997.

A number of very important Constitutional Amendments were introduced during Nawaz Sharif’s second term. These include the termination of the Eighth Amendment, passing of the Thirteenth Amendment and the Ehtesab Act, 1997. Nawaz Sharif faced a serious confrontation with the Judiciary and the Executive, which eventually led to the resignation of President Leghari on December 2, 1997. . On August 28, 1998, Nawaz regime introduced the Fifteenth Amendment. The Bill generated heated debate throughout the country but was passed on October 9, 1998, by the members of the National Assembly. The Bill, however, was not put before the Senate within 90 days as was required by the Constitution. The Bill was held back, as Nawaz Sharif did not had the required two-third majority in the Senate.

During the Benazir Bhutto’s period, the country suffered the terrorist attack on Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad that led the rift between relationship between Pakistan and Egypt. He took initiatives against terrorism when on 17 August 1997, he passed the controversial Anti-Terrorist Act which established Anti-Terrorism Courts.

It was during this term that Pakistan carried out its nuclear tests on May 28, 1998, in response to the Indian detonation of its five nuclear devices. The Nawaz Government had found it imperative for Pakistan to carry out these nuclear tests, in order to provide an effective defense, and to deter Indian adventurism. The Nawaz Government proclaimed an emergency on May 28, 1998; the day these nuclear tests were conducted. All fundamental rights were suspended and all the foreign currency accounts in Pakistani banks were frozen. The Fifteenth Amendment was presumed to be an effort by Nawaz Sharif to acquire additional powers for himself. Soon a serious conflict and confrontation emerged on the scene between him and the Military Generals. This confrontation led to the resignation of General Jehangir Karamat on October 7, 1998. General Karamat was replaced by General Pervez Musharraf. Sharif then also appointed General Musharraf as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee despite Musharraf’s lack of seniority to Admiral Bokhari.

The Kargil Operation in its aftermath again led to tense relations between Nawaz Sharif and the armed forces. This tension culminated into the removal of Nawaz Government by General Pervez Musharraf on October 12, 1999, thus bringing to an end the second term of Nawaz Sharif’s Government.