

BENAZIR'S FIRST GOVERNMENT

DECEMBER 1988-AUGUST 1990



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- **During Gen Zia regime the crisis had already been building up due to the 'Party less' elections , the National Assembly lacked credibility to perform well.**
 - **The policy of so-called 'Islamization' was failed.**
 - **PPP got electoral success.**
 - **In awarding tickets for election long serving PPP activists were dropped and local 'feudal' lords and retired army officers jumped onto PPP bandwagon.**

INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Benazir Bhutto won 93, out of 207 seats.
- ❑ She was elected as Prime Minister on December 1, 1988.
- ❑ She received her education from Oxford University.
- ❑ She inherited her political throne from her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.
- ❑ Her political image suffered due to confrontation with provincial governments of Punjab headed by Nawaz Sharif.
- ❑ To regain her status, she befriended many political party-men by showering them with favors.

A New Realism

- **PPP accepted a new realism as strategy.**
- **First acceptance of World Bank IMF,**
- **Second accommodation to the US regional priorities,**
- **Third to encourage the army as contrary to Bhutto's policy.**
- **Benazir said “ categorically that ‘Realistically it will be difficult, in the present state of Pakistan, for any civilian government to survive without critical backing of armed forces.**
- **she bestowed a special Award on the army for its ‘services to democracy’.**

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- **General Aslam Baig a new army chief declared that he rejected every appeal to impose martial law, for that cannot solve the country's problems.**
 - **General has already emerged as an influential backseat driver in the government.**
 - **The Economist noted that” The Army ‘s role in government has been quietly institutionalized”.**

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- **US Ambassador Mr. Robert Oakley played a key role in setting the issue of who is to govern in Pakistan.**
 - **Benazir Bhutto's cabinet was chosen by US, Army and president Ishaque khan.**
 - **The ex foreign minister General Sahabzada Yaqub khan was appointed as foreign minister in Benazir cabinet.**
 - **She appointed his mother and father in law to senior positions which has left her open to the charge nepotism and has served to undermine her image**

She was expected to rule that of rescuing Pakistan, bankrupt treasury and economy.

The government seems to have ruled out two main options, first to reduction in defense expenditures, second, a tax on agricultural income.

Benazir was not to take either of these two options, because of her dependence on army and landlords.

The four centers of powers have emerged on the political scene of Pakistan(Us, Military, President and Government).

From her Faustian bargain with military-bureacratic oligarchy and the united state Benazir gained nothing at all

CAUSES OF BENAZIR'S DOWNFALL

- ❑ She granted clemency including the death sentences awarded up to 6th December, 1988.
- ❑ She spared some of the most hated offenders facing death-row.
- ❑ Excess corruption done by Benazir's husband Asif Ali Zardari and his father went unpunished. This caused Benazir great damage.
- ❑ Several party members also committed corruption during the last days of her rule as if they knew that the government was about to fall.

NO CONFIDENCE MOVE:

- ❑ Benazir fell out of her coalition partner, MQM.
- ❑ GIK had promised her full political support in the Presidential election, but deserted her and did not reciprocate.
- ❑ IJI also claimed support.
- ❑ But in a collective conspiracy, IJI, NAP and MQM combined forces into a Combined Oppositional Party (COP).
- ❑ COP was supported by President Ishaq Khan.
- ❑ With Ishaq's support, the COP moved a no-confidence move against Benazir.
- ❑ This was unsuccessful, gaining 124 opponents and 107 supporters.
- ❑ But this move, though failed, but stirred a great conspiracy.

CONFLICT WITH ISHAQ

- ❑ The president under article 58-2(B) was empowered to dissolve NA and had ascendancy over the PM in matters of appointment of Chief of armed forces, judges and election commissioner.
- ❑ He was only required to consult the PM but not act on it if he so pleased.
- ❑ Benazir wanted to have say in the appointment of the Chief of armed forces, but Ishaq had his own views.
- ❑ Even on the appointment of judges, Ishaq ignored the appointments advised by the PM.
- ❑ These conflicts with Benazir as well as Ishaq's understanding with the COP led GIK to apply article 58-2(B) and dissolve the NA.
- ❑ Nawaz Sharif had support of 153 members which meant 2/3 majority in the NA whereas PPP had to its credit only 45 seats.