**1st Constituent Assembly 1947-1954**

The First Constituent Assembly of Pakistan came into existence under the Indian Independence Act 1947, at the time of independence. Its roots went back to 1946 when elections for the constituent assembly of United India were held to decide the destiny of the All India Muslim League. Muslim League boycotted the first meeting of the constituent assembly of united India since they demanded a separate constituent assembly for Pakistan. With the acceptance of the 3rd June plan, a separate constituent assembly was formulated for Pakistan.

In the inaugural session of the first constituent assembly of Pakistan, Mr. J.N. Mandal was elected as temporary chairman of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. Subsequently, Jinnah was elected as the president of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan and Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan as its Deputy President. The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan functioned from 1947 to 1954 and involved two major parties—the Muslim League representing all Muslims except for a few and The Congress Party representing the twelve million Hindus in Pakistan.

The progress of the first Constituent Assembly of Pakistan can be summed up as follows:

* 12 March 1949 – Objectives Resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly on aims and objectives of the future constitution. This report was well received by the citizens of Pakistan.
* 7 September 1950 – the interim report of the Basic Principles Committee was presented to the constituent assembly. This step however marked the beginning of the decline in the popularity of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. This report was criticized mainly by East Pakistan.
* 6 October 1950 – interim report of the Committee on Fundamental Rights of the Citizens of Pakistan matters relating to Minorities was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. This report got a comparatively better response.
* 22 December 1952 – the final report of the Basic Principles Committee was presented. This report was also criticized, because of opposition in Punjab.
* 7 October 1953 – Constitutional impasse was over and formation of the federal legislature was resolved by the ‘Muhammad Ali Formula’. This report was widely welcomed and helped the Constituent Assembly regain popularity.
* 21 September 1954 – the Basic Principles Committees’ revised Report was approved by the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

The final sketch of the constitution was prepared and the Constituent Assembly was near to the completion of its purpose. But at this point, the Constituent Assembly was suspended by Governor-General Ghulam Muhammad. He stated that the Constituent Assembly had lost the confidence of the people.